

Reesorville legacy reborn this weekend

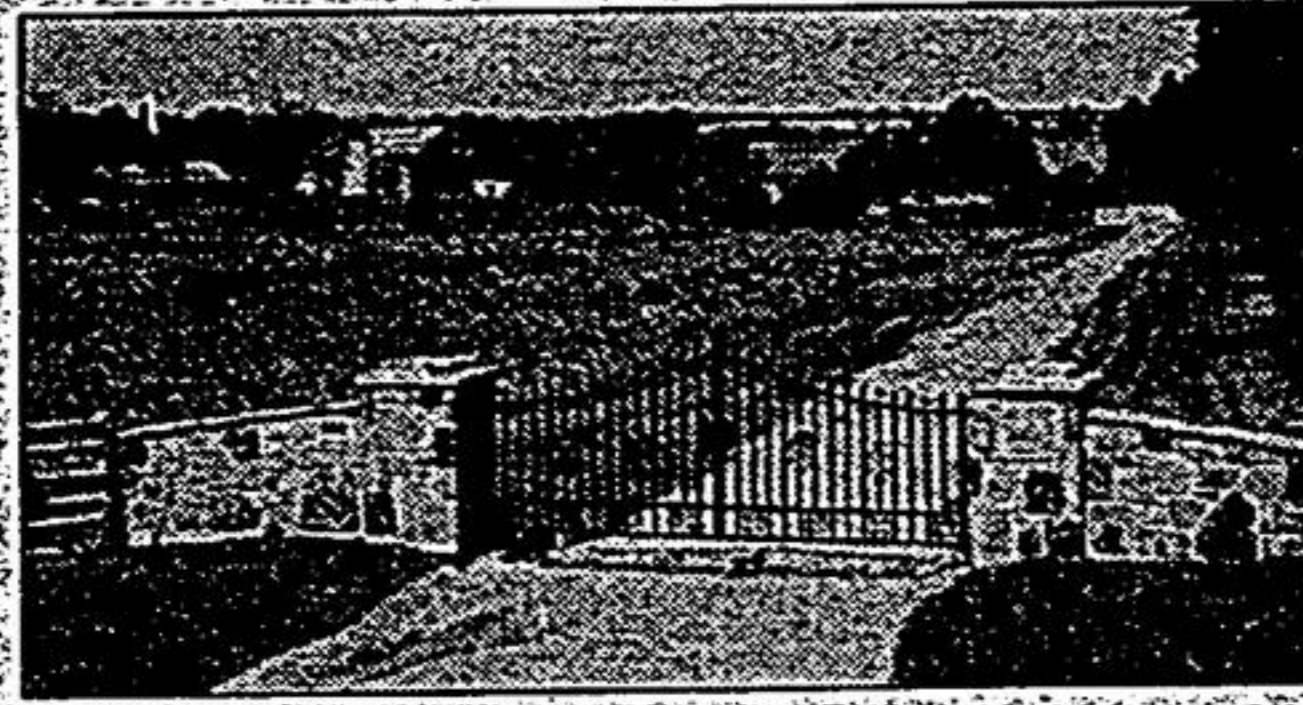
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restore the pioneer cemetery located on the original homestead. The cemetery is where Christian Reesor was buried when he was killed in an accident while clearing land two years after his arrival here.

It was Christian's eldest son, Peter, who carried on after his father's death and established the Reesor name in Markham, Scarborough and Whitchurch townships by purchasing thousands of acres of land in his name, which were distributed amongst his brothers and sisters.

Meanwhile, Christian's eldest daughter, Elisabeth, and her husband, Abraham Stouffer, also from Pennsylvania, settled 100 acres of land on the edge of what is now Stouffville.

"There were 23 farms at one time between



These new iron gates installed at the entrance to the pioneer cemetery will be dedicated at a special ceremony tomorrow.

Steeles and Stouffville on Reesor Road," said Ashmore Reesor. He said the four corners of highways 48 and 7 were owned by Reesors and known as Reesorville until it was incorporated as the Town of Markham.

In 1972, much of the Reesor land was

expropriated by the Ontario government for an airport that has yet to be built. The Reesor Mar Mill, across from the Markham train station, was torn down in 1985 to make way for more houses in Markham.

The renaming of 10th line to be called Reesor Road is another project in progress.

Currently, Reesor Road runs north from Steeles Avenue to Hwy. 7 where it continues as 10th Line into Stouffville. The genealogy committee has received confirmation from the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville that council will consider the name change.

Ashmore Reesor said if there are no objections from local businesses it will likely pass in July.

Tomorrow, there will be a dedication service at the newly restored cemetery.

Getting up close to the graves was made easier recently by a new road into the ceme-

tery accessed from Reesor Road through the new iron gates.

However, one must climb over the walls of a decorative concrete fence completely surrounding the graves to get any closer.

"Fred Reesor must have been in bad humour when he built this fence in 1931," said Ashmore Reesor.

"Maybe too many cattle were running through here messing things up, because he didn't build a gate."

Anyone who enjoys history and genealogy can order the Reesor history book through the website at www.reesorfamilysite.com.

Other local families with deep roots in the area will find clues to their own pioneer pasts in the book. Such names as Burkholder, Grove, Cornell, Wideman, Raymer, Armstrong, Hoover, Byer and many more can be found.

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