



PATHMASTER

SUMMER/FALL EDITION VOLUME 6 NUMBERS 3 & 4

WHAT'S INSIDE

► *For nearly 60 years Black's Service*

Station occupied the southwest corner of Highway 2 and Liverpool Road. Now Petro-Canada has replaced both Black's and Gulf at the same location, but the land remains in the hands of the Black family.

► *What happens when a headstone carver makes a mistake? Sometimes the error persists; sometimes the artisan has to start over. We solve a mystery and uncover some booby-boos of the chisel trade.*

► *Our series of Victorian-era crimes continues with an account of the fatal shooting of William Palmer. The tragedy begs the question: how far should you go to defend your personal property?*

► *The Markham Gang strikes again in Pickering Township. The victim this time is John Nighswander, a woolen mill owner near Altona.*

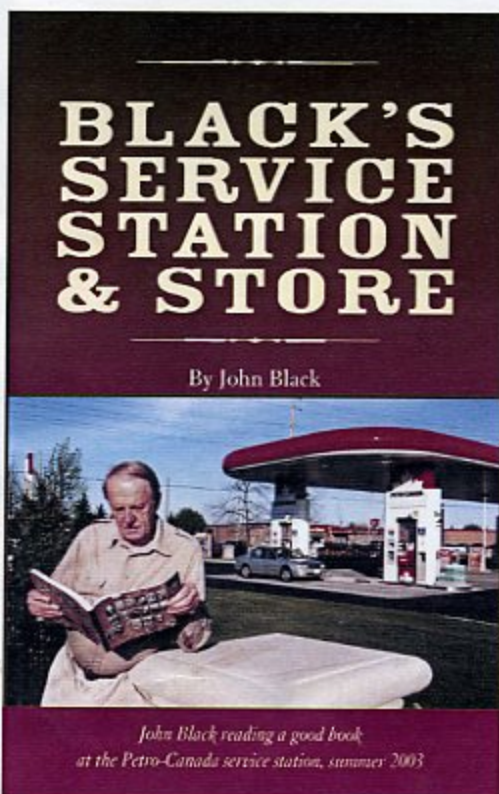
We give here the account of the trial of Oliver Badgero and William Vanzant for theft.

► *Our "Traveller" visits Kinsale in this episode of his journeys through Pickering Township.*

For 82 years my family has been in the gas station business — directly or indirectly. Where the Petro-Canada service station stands now, at the southwest corner of Kingston and Liverpool Roads, my father first established a business in 1922. For the first 57 years the business was known as Black's Service Station. Then, in 1980, the Gulf Oil Company took over the business but leased the land from the Black family. Petro-Canada took over from Gulf in 1992, but the land still remains in the Black family hands.

My father was Morley Munroe Black. He was born near Warkworth, Ontario, on 17 January 1898, the son of the Rev. John Amos Black and Minnie Alberta Jones, both of whom were descendants of early settlers in Percy Township, Ontario. Morley, with a younger brother John and three sisters, Jean, Freida, and Aileen, lived in several locations in southern Ontario as they grew up, having to move whenever their father, a Presbyterian minister, took up a new parsonage.

While attending high school my father assisted



John Black reading a good book at the Petro-Canada service station, summer 2003

the miller at Hornings Mills, sometimes helping to repair the complicated wooden gearing that worked the millstones. After graduating he worked in the Department of Defence factory north of Trenton making high explosives for use in World War I, then spent two years at a ranch near Gravelburg, Saskatchewan, as a working cowboy. Returning east he worked for the Ford Motor Company in Detroit, and later in the Ford dealership in Millbrook, Ontario.

There he met my mother, Luella Charlotte Shaw, a descendant of early settlers of Cavan Township.

My mother shared a common ancestry with the playwright George Bernard Shaw and with military leaders on both sides of the border. General Aeneas Shaw was prominent in Upper Canada during the War of 1812. Colonel Robert Gould Shaw of Boston raised and led the first Black regiment, the "Brave Black" 54th Massachusetts Volunteers and died

leading his men who were foremost in the assault on Fort Wagner at Charleston, South Carolina, during the American Civil War. As well, a first cousin, Lieutenant-Colonel Alfred Earnest Shaw, the commander of the First Canadian Mounted Rifles, was killed by a shell on 6 June 1916, during the Third Battle of Ypres, after he had ordered his few remaining men to retreat but chose himself to stay to help the wounded.

My father obtained an option to purchase 148 feet of Kingston Road frontage in 1922 from the Ontario Department of Highways, completing the purchase in 1924. The site was formerly the Liverpool Market and Telegraph Station, owned by J.H. McClellan, who also owned the Pickering Harbour Company at Frenchman's Bay and the Toronto Dominion Bank situated to the northeast of the intersection, located in a large frame house.

Assisted by my grandfather, the Rev. J.A. Black, my father built the first service station, with living quarters above. From this build-



A yet-to-be painted Black's Service Station, c1923-24. The stones in the diamond pattern demark an area to be planted in cedar trees.



Morley Black and his father, the Rev. John A. Black, c1925-26. The station is still unpainted, but a canopy has been added at the front. At right are two of Black's taxis.



Black's Service Station, c1928-29. The house in the background belonged to a dentist, Dr. Richardson.



Aileen Black, Morley's sister, stands beside a sign advertising gas prices, c1931-32.

the double ice cream cones for 5¢ and a trip without a flat tire to or from Toronto free of "flats" was something to boast about because of the poor tires.

To this business was added a taxi service—the first such motorized service in Pickering—using four-door, convertible top, Model T Fords. The fare for a trip down Frenchman's Bay Road (now Liverpool Road) was 25¢ each way. The taxis also picked up people at the Dunbarton CNR station, which was situated on the Baseline (now Bayly Street) some 400 yards west of Liverpool Road. The taxi service lasted until the onset of World War II, when it was discontinued.

My father married Luella Shaw in August 1927 and with her steadfast assistance the business prospered, although winters were slow, and when the Depression set in the going got much tougher.

Early in 1928 my father sold the Model T Fords and purchased the just introduced Model A Ford four-door touring car for personal use and taxi. It took but two days to "christen" it. My dad's brother John and another young man borrowed the new car and were involved in a slight "fender bender" turning into the gas station. This left my father completely speechless. Other cars/taxis followed—the 1928 Model A was replaced after two years by a two-door 1930 Model A closed sedan. It was then traded for a 1931 two-door sedan, which my father kept for ten years.

Crown Dominion, Cities Service, and British American were the three brands of gasoline sold along with kerosene (coal oil) and naphtha gas for stoves. British American became the sole product offered after 1930. I can remember as a small boy working the pump levers back and forth to "pump" the gasoline up into the vertical clear glass 10 gallon cylinders to be gravity fed to the hose nozzles and into the vehicle.

In the late twenties my father and mother built the first tourist cabins between Toronto and Oshawa. Because of the great amount of work

involved this business was terminated four or five years later when the cabins were torn down and the material used to build the house in 1932.

Sometimes my father was summoned away from the station to perform other duties. William Chester, the township constable would drop by and dad would accompany him, the nature of the business never divulged to my mother. And one fine summer morning the undertaker from Pickering Village, C.A. Sterritt, asked my dad to go with him to Fairport Road at the CNR track to pick up the bits and pieces of a large Toronto man who while drunk lay down on the track with a cardboard blanket.

Around 1930, a man came in from the east driving a new Buick coupe with a steaming radiator. After getting his radiator topped up, Sam McLaughlin, CEO of General Motors Canada, gave my father a hearty thanks and a 50¢ tip before driving away.

Bryan Newkirk, an affluent Toronto stockbroker and promoter, was a regular customer. He lived on the old Clarendon Woods estate (now Manressa) at the top of Liverpool Road. The Earl of Clarendon had built this estate before the First World War, then sold it to Victor Ross, CEO of Imperial Oil, who in turn, sold it to Newkirk.

One of the Carnegies of U.S. Steel in Pittsburgh visited Mr. Newkirk and gave him two German Shepherd pups from the same kennel as the famous canine star "Rin Tin Tin." My parents received one pup as a gift from Mr. Newkirk. My father, upon returning from the icehouse at Frenchman's Bay, accidentally drove over the dog when turning in the driveway, the pup running underneath the front wheel.

In 1937, one customer offered my father a new .22 Cooney repeater rifle in trade for five gallons of gasoline. That rifle is still in my possession today. It has been used to train thousands of my hunter safety education students from 1959 to the present.

Just after my parents started to sell groceries in 1940, we had a spontaneous combustion fire in our house

basement. A truck backfire woke up my parents, which saved us. My father went back into the burning house to get his wallet and passed out. My mother went in after him and dragged him out. We then lived in the store until the house was repaired.

Soon after the fire we acquired one acre to the west and during World War II we had a Victory Garden there, selling the surplus in the store. I also exhibited produce (vegetables) in the Dunbarton Public School Fall Fair winning several first prizes.

During the summer of 1954, we started a 1500 sq. foot concrete block building to the west and south of the old building, which had been enlarged at least three times from the original. The work we couldn't do ourselves was contracted out and the building cost \$19 000, a considerable sum in an era when a brick bungalow on Glendale Drive sold for \$12 000, and a new full-size automobile was \$2400.

On 5 February 1955, after closing, a fire started in the storeroom to the side of the old store. Someone had appar-



Black's Service Station and the Black family's new home, c1935-36. All the gas pumps are British American; the Cities Service pumps are gone.



John and Morley Black on their last day of business, 1 September 1979.

ing my father sold gasoline-related products, tires, light vehicle servicing, hot dogs and other refreshments, and tobacco. People would come out from Toronto to get



Mortley and Luella Black in the doorway of one of their cabins, c1930.



Mortley and Luella Black in the 1950s.



Black's Service Station and 5 cabins, c1930. In front of the cabins are foundation stones from a previous building—probably the old Liverpool market.

ently, while putting air in their tire, dropped a cigarette butt, which blew under the loose-fitting door. The building was gutted after a four-and-a-half-hour battle to put the fire out. Some stock was salvaged.

A new store was completed by June 1955, just in time to serve as a polling station in the federal election in which John Diefenbaker and the Progressive Conservative Party were elected. The first strategy meeting to promote the PCs and elect them was held at Alistair Grossart's red brick house situated at the southeast corner of Valley Farm Road and Highway #2. Mr. Grossart, of McKim's Advertising Agency in Toronto, and more than half of the others who were present were friends and customers of our small business.

My mother Luella passed away on 5

January 1971, making it very difficult for my father and me.

In March 1977, the Gulf Oil Company, which had taken over from British American, made a proposal to lease the property and move the residence 230 feet to the west. A new gas station with car wash and lube bay was built and opened 10 March 1980. Our last day of business had been the 31st of August 1979, and the new project begun on the 5th of September.

My father passed away on 5 August 1981, at 83 years of age. He was lost without the every day come and go of the business. I was retired and missed the fitness brought by the clearing of snow from the 7000 sq. feet of driveway and parking lot in the winter, and the grass cutting with small mower of the acre of lawn in the summer.

When Petro-Canada took over from

Gulf in the fall of 1992, they undertook a partial renovation. In the fall of 2001 a complete overhaul was done to the property—a store was added and the existing car wash rebuilt.

Over the years a number of well-known individuals were customers at our business (at least once).

1930s

Col. K.R. Marshall, of the 48th Highlanders,

Col. Sam McLaughlin, CEO of General Motors, Canada

1940s

Guy and Carmen Lombardo (of the Royal Canadian Orchestra).

Bryan Newkirk brought them in and introduced them to my parents.

Charles Conacher, hockey player.

Brig.-Gen. Churchill Mann, planner

of the Dieppe raid (R.S. McLaughlin's son-in-law).

1950s

Turk Broda, goal tender.

Rocky Marciano, heavyweight world's champion boxer (guest of Arthur Gottlieb).

Dr. Kenneth Roberts, financier, founder of Canada Trust.

Lon Chaney, Jr., actor (starred in the "Last of the Mohicans" TV series).

Dr. Walter Kenyon, archaeologist, University of Toronto (excavated the Miller Site at the top of Valley Farm Road).

Lt.-Gen. Lionel Bourgeois, CEO of the RCAF.

Senator Alistair Grossart.

1980s

George Chuvalo, heavy-weight boxer.

CARVED IN STONE

Compiled by John W. Sabcan

There is many an anomaly to be found in the headstones of our historic cemeteries. Recently, a number of these have come to light — all in some way connected to the Brougham Cemetery. Rick Schofield, Archivist for the Scarborough Archives, introduced us to a conundrum that had puzzled him for some time, but has now been resolved. His article is based upon an exchange of E-mail messages with me.

One of our own members, Doug Willson, who is also a Trustee of the Brougham Cemetery, brought to our attention a number of headstones relating to his family. It appears the stone carvers had problems with spelling. Doug's article also explains why there are two headstones out of place at his former residence on Whitevale Road.

The third item came to our attention when we were trying to reconcile the headstone reading of a Brougham interment as compiled by the Whitby-Oshawa Genealogical Society some 15 or more years ago with the obituary as printed in the Pickering News.

THE MYSTERY OF THE HUBBARD HEADSTONE

by Richard Schofield

After Thomas Hubbard's death in April 1854, members of the family contracted a monument dealer to prepare a monument headstone for Thomas and his wife Elizabeth, who had died the previous summer.

The monument carver prepared the monument, inscribing the information that is currently on the stone at the Brougham cemetery. The monument was almost completed, all the inscription except the right side willow tree was finished when, apparently, the left bottom corner of the monument fractured causing a small chip to fall off, but noticeably enough that the monument could not be used. (This is the most probable answer).

Using a second piece of marble, the existing monument was completed and erected at the Brougham cemetery.

The damaged monument was then set aside since it could not be used again for anyone else.

Several years later, the trustees of School Section #6 in Scarborough hired the same monument dealer to carve a datestone for their newly erected school. Knowing that the datestone would be mounted "forever" high above the school entrance and only one side would ever be visible, the dealer used Thomas Hubbard's original, damaged stone, turned it over, and carved the school's identification and date on the back of what was originally intended to be Hubbard's memorial. The datestone was then mounted on the gable front of the school where it remained for a century until the school was demolished in the early 1960s. (Whether or not the school trustees got a discount or even knew that they weren't getting a "new" piece of marble, we'll never know.)

The unique datestone, with Hubbards' inscriptions on the reverse, has been in the Scarborough Archives for many years now. The inscriptions are, of course, in mint condition since the stone was facing the interior of the school wall and not exposed to the environment. While we suspected the tombstone was an incomplete monument, we first suspected the carver had made an



Datestone for Scarborough School Section #6.

error and had to redo a second one. Since the information on the monument at Brougham is almost the same, there are only two logical possibilities:

1) the marble cracked (as evident by the visible damage) and a second monument was thus required, or 2) the year for Thomas' death was incorrect and a correction required. The latter remains a remote possibility since the stone we have was chiseled down slightly

when used for the school. The right side of the tombstone was cut back such that Thomas' death year reads 185_, the last digit missing. (Part of the "3" in Elizabeth's death date is also missing when the stone was narrowed to fit the space at the school.)

We spent considerable time trying to locate Thomas and Elizabeth's gravesite and we quickly ruled out Scarborough since we have extensive records of our community's inhabitants. A search in Markham and Toronto-York also turned up nothing. We accidentally came across Hubbard's name in Wood's history of Pickering and were later able to verify that Pickering's Thomas Hubbard was indeed the same as on our school's marble datestone.

Thomas Hubbard, according to his gravestone, died in 1854 (30 April) at age 94. He lived on Lot 19, Concession 5, Pickering Township (that's just west of Brock Road). He is buried in the Brougham Cemetery.

The name of his first wife is unknown. They had 2 children. The place of her burial is not presently known, apparently, Thomas's second wife was Sarah Comstock. She bore Thomas one son, Andrew. Her place of burial is also unknown. Thomas's third wife, Elizabeth, 1776-1853, died 4 August, at age 77, and is buried in Brougham Cemetery with Thomas. They had 4 sons and 3 daughters.

The inscription on the stone reads:

"Thomas Hubbard died April 30, 1854 AE 94 years. Elizabeth wife of the above died Aug. 4, 1853 AE 77 years."



Thomas Hubbard's discarded gravestone, now in Scarborough's Archives.



Thomas Hubbard's gravestone as it stands today in Brougham Cemetery.

Photograph by Richard Schofield

Photograph by John W. Sabcan

IS THAT ONE L OR TWO?

by Doug Willson

Casper Willson died in 1888. At that time a monument was erected in the Brougham Cemetery to his memory. Added to the stone on other sides were inscriptions to his predeceased children: Elmer (died in 1863 at age 2) and Ella (died in 1863 at age 4) on one side; Charles (died in 1859 at age 12) and Elizabeth (died in 1844 at age 1) on the opposite side. Later, after her death in

1896, an inscription was carved into the 4th side in honour of Casper's wife Elizabeth.

Apparently, earlier gravestones had been erected for three of the children, but removed when the new stone was put in place. The old stones were taken to Casper's farm on the Fifth Concession where they remain to this day.

On one of the stones the inscription reads (in part): "Elizabeth Nancy, daughter of Casper & Elizabeth Wilson, Died Aug. 14, 1844, Aged 1 yr, 2 mo & 5 ds."

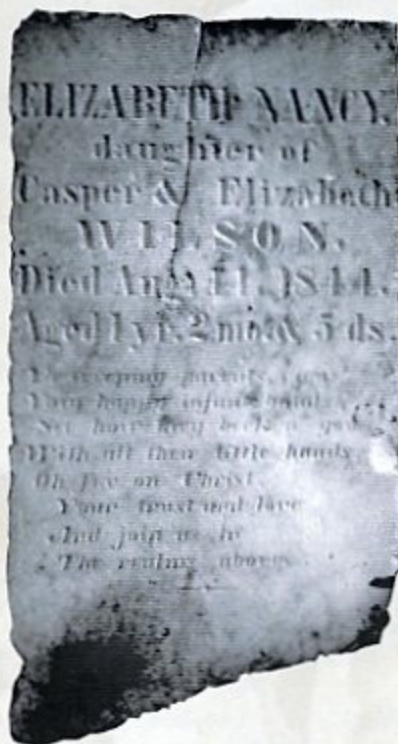
On this stone the surname is misspelled, dropping one of the l's. Note that in the new inscription the middle name "Nancy" was dropped.

A second stone has been broken in half and only the lower half is available. It is inscribed: "Children of Casper & Elizabeth Willson," and almost undoubtedly was created for Elmer and Ella who died less than two months apart in 1863.



Photograph by Pamela Fawell

The lower portion of a gravestone believed to have been created for Elmer and Ella Willson, both of whom died in 1863.



Photograph by Pamela Fawell

The original gravestone of Elizabeth Nancy Willson (1843-1844)

If there was an earlier stone for Charles it has since disappeared.

The year after young Elizabeth died in 1844, Casper and his wife had another daughter. Her they also named

Elizabeth. She later married Sylvanus Phillips and is buried with him in Brougham Cemetery.

Oliver Willson, another member of the family, is also buried in the Brougham Cemetery along with his wife Jemima. There were two separate stones to mark their graves, and on each the name Willson was spelled correctly. However, Oliver's stone was later replaced with a new stone on the old base. Unfortunately, on the new inscription the carver left out one of the l's in Willson. The two stones of husband and wife stand side by side in the cemetery today: Oliver's with one l, Jemima's with two l's in their surname.



Photograph courtesy of Doug Willson

Gravestone of Rachel Lamoreaux

HE GOT THE DATE WRONG

Rachel Lamoreaux died on Wednesday, 8 February 1893, and her obituary appeared in the *Pickering News* the following week on Friday, 17 February. When the stone carver came to do his work, however, he got the date wrong. He carved 1892 into the stone rather than 1893, thus shortening Rachel's life by a year.

About 15 years ago the inscription was still legible. Today, however, the face of the stone is quite unreadable and only the name RACHEL, across the top of the stone, is intact.

Rachel Lamoreaux was the daughter of James W. Lamoreaux and Martha Cross. James lived to be over 111 years old. James and Martha are buried together in the Lamoreaux Cemetery off Whitevale Road.

Rachel Lamoreaux, who has resided in the township for the last 78 years, in fact was born in the municipality, died at the residence of R. S. Philips on Wednesday of last week, and was buried on Friday afternoon. Deceased was the last one left of the family, and she has been obtaining support from the council for the past few years. Deceased's father reached a remarkable age, being 111 years and 4 months when he died.

Obituary as it appeared in *Pickering News*, Friday, 17 February 1893.

JOHN NIGHSWANDER: ANOTHER VICTIM OF THE MARKHAM GANG

The Trial of Oliver Badgero and William Vanzant

John Nighswander was another of the Pickering Township victims of the Markham Gang. We published an earlier account of the trial of John Fleming for the robbery of Casper Willson's grain.¹ Both Willson and Nighswander have descendants who still live in this area. But the story of the Nighswander theft is a bit puzzling and gives us an indication of how little we really know about our past.

For one thing, there is no record of a John Nighswander living in Pickering Township in the 1840s. The story of the immigration of the Nighswanders to Upper Canada has been pieced together by a descendant, Joe Nighswander. His great, great, great grandfather, Abraham Neiswander (1773–1825), came to the Markham–Pickering area in 1824, with his wife and ten children.² Abraham had been married previously and that marriage produced three sons, the eldest of whom was named John, born in 1798. However, there is no record thus far discovered that indicates any of these children came to Upper Canada.

Oral tradition traces the beginning of the Nighswander Mill, on Lot 31, Concession 9, to Samuel Nighswander, who is said to have built a woolen mill sometime in the mid-1850s.³ The lot on which the mill stood was originally a Clergy Reserve

lot. It was purchased (patented) by Martin Neighswander in 1838.⁴ In 1841, Martin's brother Samuel purchased the south half of the lot—that portion on which the mill was built. And according to the family history, it was Samuel who erected the mill, and not until the 1850s.

Now, however, we have evidence that there was a fulling mill at least a decade earlier, having been built before 1845, and the operator's name was John Nicewinder (Nighswander). There is no further record of John Nighswander after the event of the robbery.

In this case two men, Oliver Badgero and William Vanzant, were tried for stealing fulled cloth from Mr. Nighswander.⁵ Badgero (or Badgerow) was the son of Justin Badgerow and Elizabeth Austin. In 1839, Justin Badgerow purchased the south half of Lot 13, Concession 4, Pickering Township, land that is now part of the Greenwood Conservation Area. It was heavily wooded then, and still heavily wooded in parts today. Several traditions have come down to us that the forests on this lot were used by members of the Markham Gang as a hideout or meeting place. According to one story, on Sundays members of the gang "would meet on 'Hell's Half Acre,' a pleasant stretch of level land rising from Duffin's Creek, so named because of their association with it. There they would plan their raids."⁶ Considering the num-

ber of known crimes Badgero was involved in, this assessment appears to be quite plausible. Oliver Badgero, himself, who died in 1861, lies buried in a lonely grave on the property.

Vanzant (or Van Zant) lived just north of the hamlet of Altona, Lot 2, Concession 1, Uxbridge Township.⁷ This was, as Nighswander testified, about one mile (1.6 km) from the fulling mill. At the time of the robbery he had eight children; he would later have another son, born in 1852.⁸ In the meanwhile both he and Badgero were found guilty of this crime and others and were sentenced to seven years of hard labour in the provincial penitentiary.

Two other men were implicated in the Nighswander theft, Casper Stotts and Lorenzo White. Stotts we have encountered before; he was the chief witness against Fleming in the Casper Willson case. A gang member himself, he was persuaded to turn Queen's evidence and testified in more than a dozen cases against gang members, including several times against Badgerow. Lorenzo White was alleged to have been involved in numerous robberies, but he was never arrested, never tried, and never served time.⁹

This episode is taken from the British Colonist Supplement published in 1846, which contained a summary of the arrests and trials of various gang members.¹⁰

HOME DISTRICT ASSIZES

BEFORE HIS HONOUR THE CHIEF JUSTICE [JOHN BEVERLEY ROBINSON]

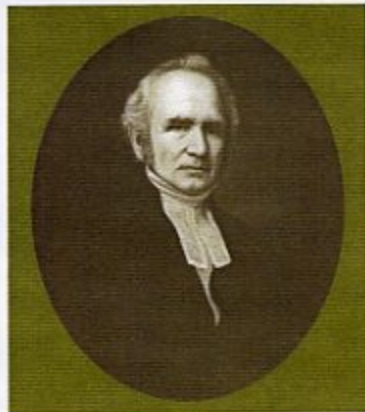
Oliver Badgero and William Vanzant were then placed at the bar, charged with stealing 150 yards of cloth, the property of John Nicewinder. Mr. Hagarty appeared for Vanzant.

The prosecutor deposed to having lost from his fulling mill, this quantity, in January of last year. It was in rolls, and were greys, browns, and plaids. The robbery took place while he was at a sale, three or four miles off. He noticed on his return, the track of another sleigh on the side line.

Cross examined.—Vanzant raised wool. I fulled cloth for him every year. The robbery was committed while I was at the auction. Saw Vanzant's family there. Don't know the time they left. I met a sleigh on my return. I think the parties in it committed the robbery. Vanzant lives a mile from me. (By a juror)—I

have no private mark. Re-examined.—I did not see who was in the sleigh, as they turned right out, and gave us all the road.

Casper Stotts.—About three months after the robbery, Badgero told me that Vanzant and his wife had parted, and that she had told all about Nicewinder's cloth. While travelling in a sleigh with White, Vanzant got into the cutter. Conversation turned on the cloth, and Vanzant said he had never received his portion of the proceeds.



Chief Justice John Beverley Robinson.
Artist: George T. Berthon.

White replied, he was overpaid. Vanzant retorted "he had not had a copper." Badgero told me he held the horses while Vanzant and White fetched the cloth, and told me that in passing Nicewinder, they drove into the ditch, and nearly upset the whole.

The pantaloons I have on, were made from the cloth. I got it from Lorenzo White.

Cross-examined by Mr. Hagarty.—I suppose they told me this because we belonged to one club. Some pieces of the cloth were hid at my house. I

have had no conversation with Rachel Baker about my evidence. The rules of the club were, that we were to share and share alike, and it was understood that if any man turned, death should be his portion. I did not swear; nor was there any oath or form.

His Lordship.—Did you suppose they were allotted for on admission Mr. Hagarty?

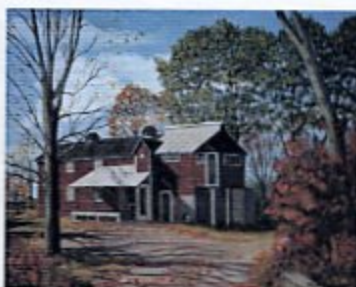
Mr. Hagarty.—No, my Lord.—Call Rachael Baker.

Rachael Baker deposed to being in the service of the prisoner, Vanzant, when the robbery occurred. She recollected the prisoner bringing home some rolls of cloth, about ten at night. They were of various colours. Mrs. Vanzant said that was not their cloth, and asked where he got it; but Vanzant would not say.



*Oliver Badgerow's gravestone in Greenwood Conservation Area. The inscription reads:
"In Memory of Oliver Badgerow who died Dec. 18, 1861."*

Other evidence was offered in corroboration and Mr. Hagarty addressed the jury at length; who returned a verdict of "guilty."



The Nighswander Mill as it appeared in the mid-20th century. Artist: Elsie Nighswander.

Notes:

- 1 *Pathmaster* 5, 3&4 (2003), p. 31.
- 2 The names of the children were: Samuel, Isaac, Martin, David, Michael, Joseph, Daniel, Orlia, Elizabeth, and Manuel. The name Nighswander is spelled in each case as found in the particular document.
- 3 Joseph M. Nighswander, "The Altona Apple Butter Mill," *Pathmaster* 1, 4 (1998), p. 29. Edwin Cliff who purchased the mill property in 1858 was already described as carder and fuller in John Lovell, *The Canada Directory for 1857-58* (Montreal: John Lovell, 1857).

- 4 Martin was already living on the property in 1837, according to George Walton *The City of Toronto and the Home District Commercial Directory and Register* (Toronto: T. Dalton and W.J. Coates, 1837).
- 5 The case is reviewed in Paul Arculus, *Mayhem to Murder: The History of the Markham Gang* (Port Perry: Observer Publishing, 2003), pp. 27-28, 111-112.
- 6 Unidentified news clipping (c1959?) in the Brougham Tweedsmuir History. See also our original query about the "Stoutenburgh Gang," which we later learned was, in fact, the Markham Gang; *Pathmaster* 3, 1 (1999), p. 7.
- 7 Walton (1837).
- 8 Arculus (2003), pp. 65, 176.
- 9 All of his known larceny appears to have been committed against people of Pickering Township: Nighswander, Asa Post, Casper Willson, John Haight, and John Lumsden. Arculus (2003), pp. 27-28, 111-113, 120, 172.
- 10 "An Interesting Account of the Organization and Mode of Operations of the Celebrated Horde of Robbers Known as the Markham Gang" Toronto, Canada, 1846. Pp. 4-5.

FIELD TRIP NORTH PICKERING TOUR

Text and Photographs by Carol M. King

As the Welsh would say "the sky was low." Such was the case when the Pickering Township Historical Society started out on its bus excursion on Saturday, 24 May. Although it was misty when the coach departed from the East Shore Community Centre, we were grateful the down-pour of the earlier morning had passed. The mist did not appear to be a problem until we climbed the escarpment north of the city and drove into a "cloud" which stayed with us until after our lunch break at Mt. Zion United Church. Such a disappointment for our knowledgeable and enthusiastic presenter, PTHS's president, John Sabean. Undaunted, John described what we *should* be seeing and would if we could

We passed through varied and valuable land, extending our vocabulary with words such as "corbelling" and "coy-dog" and

checking the flora and fauna of the area as well as the farms and points of interest. We learned about the contributions of David William Smith, the history of the Mennonite settlement in Altona, tried to see the first (perhaps the second) Bentley house, saw where Tom Thomson lived for a short time and heard of Howell's Hollow now a ghost town near Greenwood. Joe Nighswander was good enough to look after us as we toured the Mennonite Meeting House in Altona; Evelyn Jones was our gracious hostess at Mt. Zion United Church; and Chris Gray conducted our informative tour of the popular Bentley-Gibson house at Brougham. Although the mist did not dampen our spirits, we did welcome the afternoon sun as we returned to town much more learned than when we left and eager to have another excursion.



Altona Mennonite Meetinghouse in the mist.



Mount Zion United Church.



John Sabean converses with Joe Nighswander in the meetinghouse.



A restored Bentley-Gibson House.



Intrepid PTHS tourists.

IN MEMORIAM

Henry "Mac" Gawman

Henry Gawman, an original member of the Pickering Township Historical Society, passed away on 27 June 2004. He was just short of his 78th birthday.

Members will remember his spirited talks on a variety of historical subjects — including "Good Queen Bess" (Queen Elizabeth I) — over the years. Before becoming a member of the PTHS, Henry served for many years on the Pickering Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee (LACAC), a committee of the town council. He was a staunch advocate for the preservation of heritage buildings.

Henry wrote numerous articles for the local newspapers about historic places in Pickering. He wanted people to share his interest in our common heritage.

Among the subjects for his published articles were: Thistle Ha' (on the 7th Concession Road), Post Manor (Brock and Kingston Roads), Woodruff's Tavern (on Kingston Road west of Duffin's Creek), Bentley House (Brougham), the Old Liverpool House (Liverpool and Kingston Roads), the British Arms Inn (Greenwood), "Fireplace in the Valley — Royalty in Pickering", "Samuel Jones and the Church" (regarding Mount Zion United Church), and the hamlet of Cherrywood.

As a tribute to Henry, known to many of his friends as Mac, we republish, with permission, one of these articles.

CHANGING CHERRYWOOD

by Henry Gawman

Reprinted from *The Brooklin Village Voice & Country Rambler*, 24 August 1993, p. 9.

Back in the early days, it was an Irishman from Tipperary who tried to change the dense forest in the area; James McCreight was one of the first settlers in the area. Why he called the place Cherrywood is anyone's guess.

Two more Irishmen by the names of John and Patrick Teefy landed in Pickering in 1896. Patrick bought a farm near Cherrywood and raised eight "wild Irish roses" and one son. The son, William, married and had six boys and five girls.

Another one of the founding families was the Petty family. Just west of the Cherrywood General Store is the old Petty Garage, the Cherrywood United Church and the Church hall opposite. They are all the result of Charles Petty who came from England to Markham and then Cherrywood in the mid-19th century.

He built a store and then began a brickyard nearby. The Cherrywood United Church was built in 1874 of yellow Petty brick. It still stands today. Sadly, the brickyard does not. It closed in 1918.

But the Petty family played an

important role and left a lasting legacy in Cherrywood. Besides the Church built with their bricks, the Pettys opened the first store among other enterprises. Wesley Petty, for instance, owned the first garage in Cherrywood.

Growing up in Cherrywood was a delight for Mary and Edith. As children they accepted life as they found it. They set off for school in sub-zero temperatures, often trudging through three feet of snow, each girl hoping to win a prize for her perfect attendance at school.

Catholic and Protestant children attended the same school in Cherrywood. Upon entering the school — boys through one door, girls through another — they sat together in the same classroom!

The boys tended to be winter scholars because they had to work back on the farm at other times. The school was heated by a wood stove and the teacher boarded with one of the local families. Sometimes the children arrived under adverse conditions only to find that the teacher had been

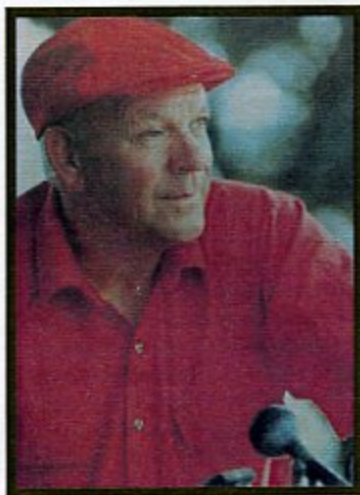
snowed in.

When asked about the local doctor, both ladies remembered Dr. Dale of Dunbarton. In those days, a doctor was only called in as a last resort, not the first. Payment was often in kind, not in cash; the loan of a horse might pay a bill. Edith said that Dr. Dale would never grow rich from his infrequent visits to Cherrywood, especially when cash was so scarce.

Everyone patronized Morrish's store in Cherrywood. Not only because there was no other store but because the storekeeper had a reputation for being totally honest.

If you wanted to buy something that wasn't available in the store, the mail order catalogue was an alternative. The goods ordered would arrive on one of two local trains.

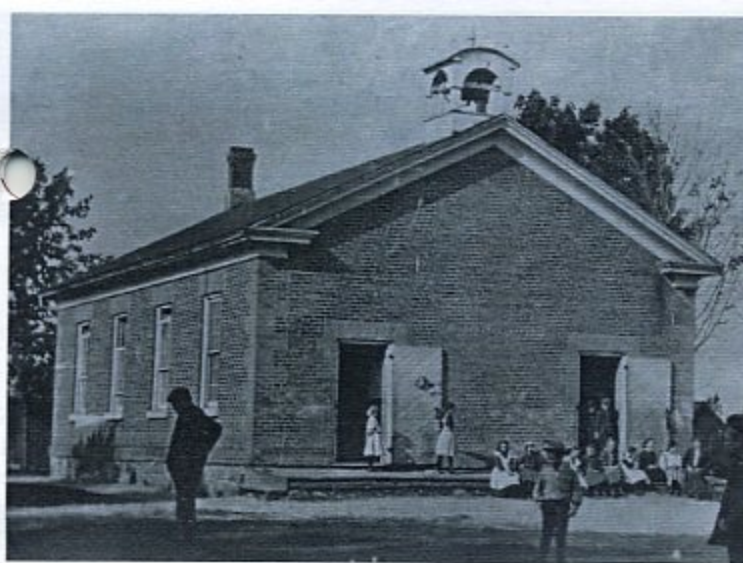
The hamlet was served by both the Canadian Pacific and the Canadian National Railway. Mary remembers how the two trains — one CNR, one CPR — might race to be the first in the station. She also remembers the sound of the steam train whistle echoing over the fields and farms in what



Henry Gawman (1926-2004)

Photograph courtesy of Marjorie Garsener

Mary and Edith remember growing up in Cherrywood. It's a small little hamlet with a general store, a lovely old United Church and an ancient blacksmith shop, all haphazardly clustered around the crossroads of Rosebank Rd. and the Third Concession in Pickering. It's as quaint and rural now as it was a hundred years ago. Only time once again is trying to change it.



Photograph courtesy of Phyllis Cockburn

Cherrywood schoolhouse (School Section #7)

was then a great solitude to her.

Edith recalls that there was only one policeman in the township and he came to Cherrywood on horseback. To summon the police was also done only as a last resort. Whoever wished

for strong drink could visit the cider mill in Cherrywood, walk to the old Liverpool House at Kingston Rd. and Liverpool Rd. or patronize certain illegal premises on Dixie Rd.

But Mary said that the policeman

who came to Cherrywood may well have been the loneliest man in the township because people settled their own disputes. She also said that the teacher was never lonely but he may well have had his fearful moments. Some of the farm boys who attended school could pitch the teacher as easily as a bale of hay.

It was probably one hundred years before the last coal oil lamp went out and electricity came in. Some of the men of Cherrywood went off to fight in Europe in 1916 and learned that grand old song of the Great War, *It's a long way to Tipperary*. They went back again in 1939. But both times when they returned, they might have found that war had changed them but Cherrywood hadn't.

Things seem always to be eternal around Cherrywood. Except that in 1972 the Ontario government tried to do what nothing else could: propel Cherrywood into the 21st century before it was ready.

The province wanted to build a massive community originally called Cedarwood but now called Seaton. And they wanted to build it near Cherrywood. Local people were invited to sell their land and their homes to the government. When that failed, the government began to expropriate the land.

The boarded up farmhouse at the corner of the Third Concession and Altona Rd. is a raw testament to what has happened over the past twenty years. There was strong resistance to the new provincial community of Seaton as there was further north to the attempt by the federal government to expropriate farmland near Claremont to build an airport.

Neither Seaton nor the Airport has progressed much beyond the planning stage. But the steps so far taken have uprooted old residents and shattered forever the tenor of village life in Cherrywood. Everyone was paid, not everyone was happy.



PTHS AWARDS



Awards presented June 2004.

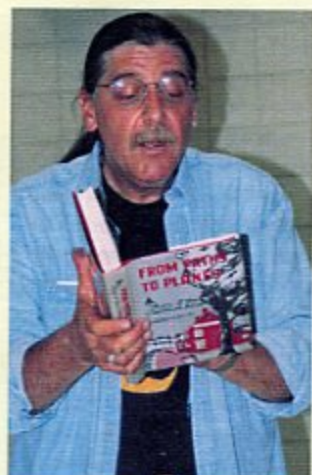
The GTAA award was in recognition of their meticulous restoration of the Bentley-Gibson House



Chris Gray of the GTAA receives the William and Melba McKay Award from PTHS President John Sabean



Tom Mohr presents a certificate to Lillian M. Gauslin naming her an Honorary President of the PTHS. Caitlin Sabean, designer of the certificate, looks on.



PTHS Vice-president, Tom Mohr, reads from Lillian M. Gauslin's history of Claremont: From Paths to Planes.

Photograph by Carol M. King

CRIMES OF A CENTURY: THE SHOOTING OF WILLIAM PALMER

by John W. Sabcan

Part two of a planned series of articles about sensational crimes in nineteenth-century Pickering.

Early on a dark, moonless Wednesday morning, on the 16th of November 1892, about 2:30 a.m., Bernard Baker of Fairport Village heard a commotion coming from his barnyard. The geese were making more noise than usual. Over the last several nights geese had been strangely disappearing from his property, and Baker suspected the thief had returned for another go.

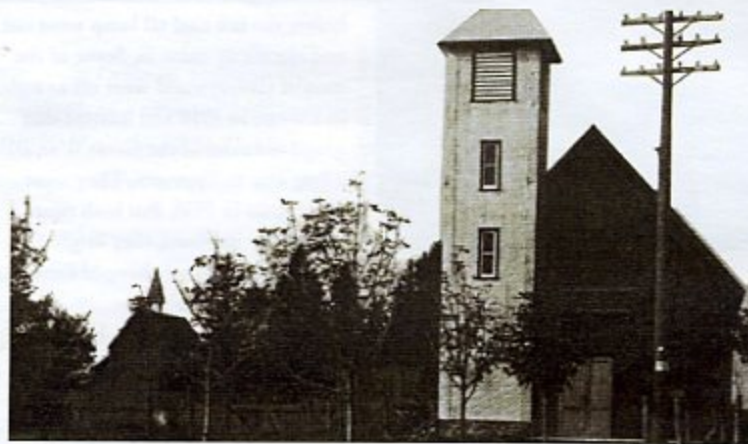
He climbed out of bed, got dressed, and picking up a single-barreled shotgun went out to take a look. He spotted a dim light coming from the hen house, and as he approached the light vanished and the door opened. Unable to see who was emerging through the door, Baker took a wild shot in the general direction. The intruder ran passed Baker, passed through the gate and headed up the lane towards the road.

Meanwhile, Baker's hired man, Harry Lingford had heard the noise and came out to see what was going on. Seeing a man fleeing from the scene he gave challenge. When no answer was made he also took a couple of shots with his revolver.

As Lingford later testified: "after I had fired the second shot cartridge the man turned and made for me with his hand extended as though taking aim at me and he remarked, 'I have you now.'" Lingford fired again and the shot found its mark. The fleeing man was reported to have exclaimed: "You've done me," as he fell to the ground. Baker and Lingford approached the man and found him dead.

When the shooting was reported, Daniel Decker, the county constable, and the coroner, Dr. Richard Martin Bateman, were dispatched to the scene. The dead man was found to be William Palmer, of whom the *Pickering News* was to declare his "greatest fault was his appetite for liquor."

The coroner issued a warrant for an inquest and Baker and Lingford were placed under arrest. Dr. J.H. Eastwood conducted a post mortem at



Pickering Village Fire Hall c1908. From a post card in the PTHS collection.

the scene and found that at least two shots had struck Palmer. Apparently, Baker's blast with the shotgun had struck Palmer in the lower body, but these wounds were not sufficient to cause death. The fatal shot had struck Palmer in the chest, passing through the heart. This undoubtedly was the final shot made by Lingford.

Later that same day the coroner began hearing witness reports at Baker's house, but then adjourned to the fire hall in Pickering Village, where more testimony was heard, before adjourning until the following Monday. Meanwhile, that evening,

integrity, and of high moral character."

William Palmer was a fourth-generation member of the large Palmer family of Pickering and Scarborough. William's great grandfather, James Palmer, Sr. had immigrated to Upper Canada from New York State sometime in the 1790s. After short sojourns in Kingston and Cobourg, James eventually settled in Scarborough by 1802, on Lot 22, Concession D. Three of his sons—Seneca, Sherwood, and John—later moved to Pickering Township in the 1830s, while other children remained

was laid to rest in the Disciples' burying ground.

John's son, Weston Palmer, was born in 1818 in Scarborough to John's first wife Elizabeth Stephens, daughter of Weston Stephens, from whence he derived his name. In 1851, he purchased part of Lot 22 of the Broken Front (in the village of Fairport) from his father who had originally purchased it in 1846. Weston was married to Rachel Tool. As his father before him he was a member of the Disciples' Church, and was also interred in the Disciples' burying ground when he died in 1894 (two years after his son William).

William Palmer, Weston's son, according to the census data, was born c1849, and so was about 43 years old when he was killed. He apparently lived his whole life on Lot 22, Broken Front. There is now no record of his burial in the Post Cemetery. Was his burial unmarked because of his violent death?

On Monday evening the inquest resumed, and continued the next day well into the afternoon. After all the witnesses were heard the coroner made his charge to the jury, explaining the difference in law between a charge of murder and one of manslaughter. When he had concluded, the jury withdrew to the residence of William Logan (one of the jurors) to deliberate. The verdict they returned stated:

"An inquisition indented taken for our sovereign lady the queen at the house of Bernard Baker and at the fire hall in the village of Pickering, in the township of Pickering, in the county of Ontario, on the 16th, 21st and 22nd days of November, before Corner Bateman, on view of the body of Wm. Palmer, then and there lying dead, and upon the oath of Isaac Linton, Wm. George Ham, George S. Cowan, Jas. Somerville, Wm. Gordon, James Hartrick McQuay, George Benjamin Hartrick, John Gordon, John Seldon, Wm. Peak, Wm. Logan, David Edgar Pugh,

Medical.

R. M. BATEMAN, M.D., C.M., M.C.P.
R. & S.O., Coroner: Office and Residence.
King Street, Pickering Office hours: Morning
8:30 to 11:30; Evening 6 to 8.

the deceased was interred at the Disciples' burying ground (the Post Cemetery at the southwest corner of Kingston and Brock Roads) and the prisoners were released on bail.

Two days later the *Pickering News* commented: "Much sympathy is felt for all concerned in the tragic affair. The Palmer family are among the most respectable in the township, while the prisoners are both men of

in Scarborough.

John Palmer, a son of James Palmer, Sr., was born in the United States c1794. About 1832 he settled on Lot 21, Concession 2, in Pickering Township. He was a sawmill owner and lumber manager. He was also one of the founding members of the Disciples' Church (which stood where the Post Cemetery is now located). When he died in 1882, he

Robert Deverell, James Hilts, Robert Miller, John Field, good and lawful men of the said county, duly chosen and sworn, and charged to inquire into the cases, when, where, how and what means the said Wm. Palmer came to his death, do upon their oath say: On the morning of the 16th day of November, instant, one Henry Lingford, with a certain pistol, called a revolver, charged with gunpowder and a leaden bullet, which he, the said Henry Lingford, then had and held in his hand, discharged, and shot off, and that the said Henry Lingford, with the leaden bullet aforesaid, then discharged and shot out of the said pistol, by the force of the gunpowder aforesaid, shot the said Wm. Palmer, in and upon the breast of him, the said Wm. Palmer, did then strike and penetrate thereby, then giving to him, the said Wm. Palmer, with the bullet aforesaid, so shot off, one mortal wound, of which said mortal wound the said Wm. Palmer then instantly died, and the jurors aforesaid, on their oath aforesaid, do further say that the said Henry Lingford for the preservation and safety of his person, and of inevitable necessity, did so discharge and shoot off the said pistol so causing the death of the said Wm. Palmer, and that the said Henry Lingford him the said Wm. Palmer, in manner and by the means aforesaid did kill and slay. In witness whereof, as well the said coroner, as the jurors aforesaid, have hereunto set and subscribed their hands and seals the day and year following, viz., November 22nd, 1892."

The verdict—the effect of which was that Lingford acted in self-defence—was signed by 12 of the 16 jurors. The four who disagreed were John Gordon, William Peak, James Hilts and John Field. This should have been the end of the affair, but the Crown Attorney, John E. Farewell, decided to lay an indictment despite the verdict, a preliminary hearing to take place the following Monday. However, because of the outcome of the inquest the prisoners were released on a bail of \$1 000 each.

The case attracted a great deal of attention, and opinion was strongly divided over the verdict from the inquest. The *Pickering News* received a large number of letters both for and against the verdict, but they wisely decided not to print any of these until

At this point a couple of strange events occurred. A Toronto newspaper reported a rumour that William Palmer's remains "were buried in a shameful manner," apparently based upon the fact that the burial took place rather quickly. The *Pickering News*, however, took offense to this claim and refuted it with great vehemence. The undertakers were the respected Hilts and Dillingham firm of Pickering Village.

So intense was the feeling of some in favour of the accused that someone sent a threatening letter to Brereton Bunting, one of the magistrates. It read: "Sq. Bunting—We write these few lines to you to warn you of danger if Baker or Lingford is punished you and Farewell and Harper will stand a sorry run for if you law people won't protect decent people we will and we don't care what we do to get them clear as we have ten of a majority to your one for you take the part of

first day of the preliminary hearing under a charge of "feloniously killing" the prisoners were again released on bail, but now raised to \$3 000 each. A week later Farewell declared before magistrates Harper and Bunting that he had produced sufficient evidence to move for a committal. The magistrates agreed and the prisoners were sent down for trial at the spring assizes. Baker and Lingford made application at Osgoode Hall for bail, which they received, but now at the rate of \$4 000 each.

So now Baker and Lingford had to wait another five months before their fate would be decided. Finally, on Wednesday, the 5th of April 1893, the trial commenced. The charge was now changed to one of manslaughter. The defence elected to have the men tried separately with Lingford to appear first at the dock. The jury selection took some time because both sides challenged many of the candi-

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BERETON BUNTING

PICKERING VILLAGE.
Aug. 1st, 1892. 5c

grounds of self-defence. The jury did not take long in their deliberations, and when they returned they presented a verdict of not guilty. With Lingford now acquitted the prosecution did not proceed against Baker and both were set free.

This tragedy deeply divided the people of Pickering Township. It raised the problem of how far one may go to defend one's property. This is a perennial problem and will always be a controversial issue. The passion that this case aroused is indicated by those strange side issues.

The complaint about the mistreatment of Palmer's remains undoubtedly came from those who believed Palmer, for what ever his defects, did not deserve to be shot down in cold blood. On the other hand, one of those who was concerned about the protection of

private property was probably the perpetrator of the threatening letter to magistrate Bunting. Some of the jury members were store owners and would have had an interest in protecting their premises from thieves. In fact, William Logan, the jury foreman, had his store broken into earlier that year.

Was the verdict a just one? Is the evidence presented here sufficient to say that Lingford (and to a lesser extent, Baker) was guilty beyond all doubt? To ask these questions is to reopen the debate, not to resolve the issues.

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.....WM. LOGAN.

the thieves and the honest man can't get justice, but we will see. We would like to know what the people are to do if they can't protect their own stuff we want no such going on as this for the sake of such a dog as Palmer, it is a pity he did not get more than he did. Remember our word. Sgd. The Warning."

Bunting declared that he was not the least bit intimidated by the letter

dates. Finally 12 men were agreed upon and the enquiry began. The evidence presented was largely what came out in the inquest and the preliminary hearing. The defense called no witnesses, so the counsel for the Crown, Mr. O'Leary, Q.C., presented his case, and asked not for a severe punishment, but for a judgement of manslaughter against the defendant. T.A. McGillivray, Lingford's counsel,

continued from page 27

Note: This story was gleaned from *Pickering News* items of 18 & 25 November, 2 & 9 December 1892, and 7 April 1983.

—Hearing a noise the other night in his summer kitchen, after the family had retired, Chas. S. Palmer concluded that a bold burglar was entering his house. Quietly he arose, procured his shot gun and proceeded to investigate. On opening the kitchen door, he sternly challenged the intruder. Three times he asked for an explanation, threatening each time that he would shoot if not saluted. Still the burglar spoke not a word. Patience ceasing to further avail, Charles pulled the trigger. The hammer ignited the cap, which set fire to the gunpowder and the leaden shot grains were hurled across the room to where the stranger stood. There was a shuffle and the intruder stretched himself across the floor, blood pouring from innumerable wounds upon his body. Imagine the surprise of the household when the trespasser was recognized as none other than a large feminine pig, well known to the family. The wounds were not fatal.

Item from the *Pickering News*, 16 December 1892.

Charles S. Palmer was William's cousin.

IN MEMORIAM - MARGUERITE O'CONNOR

by Pat McCauley



Marguerite O'Connor

Born : January 31, 1918
Died : May 3, 2004

May He support us all the day long,
till the shadows lengthen
and the evening comes,
and the busy world is hushed,
and the fever of life is over,
and our work is done.

Then in His mercy may He give us
a safe lodging,
and a holy rest
and peace at last.

John Henry Cardinal Newman

McEACHNE FUNERAL HOME

On 3 May 2004 we lost one of our most esteemed citizens. Marguerite O'Connor, the daughter of Arthur and Margaret O'Connor, who was born on 11 January 1918, the last child to be born in the family's stone house on Lot 1, Concession 3, built about 1845. The O'Connor family came from Ireland in 1831 to farm. Their land use evolved from wheat to a dairy farm which still exists on Lakeridge Road on the Ajax-Whitby border.

After a working life in business, Marguerite began her retirement years with service and dedication to worthy causes such as Amnesty International, the rebuilding of the Ajax Library, and the preservation

of the St. Francis de Sales church. Built in 1869 the church at one point a few years ago faced demolition.

Marguerite had great interest in the history of Ajax and Pickering and was the O'Connor family's historical custodian. She was a member of the Pickering Township Historical Society from its inception in 1997. She was affable and friendly and always happy to share her knowledge.

The last two years of her life were a struggle with cancer that she could not win. We note her passing with sadness and respect from all her friends at the historical society. Marguerite's Funeral of Burial was held at her beloved St. Francis de Sales followed by interment in the St. Francis de Sales cemetery.

FIELD TRIP A KEENE DAY - OCTOBER 1, 2003

by Carol M. King

The perfect fall day was enough to make anyone keen to explore the countryside. With 25 members and friends on board the bus (and 3 others joining later), we drove the undulating hills on Taunton Road East with a later jog north and east to Country Road 9. En route, John Sabeau, our PTHS president and "walking encyclopaedia," gave a non-stop presentation of historical, geographical and biological points of interest. South of Bewdley, we viewed the Scriven monument, dedicated to the man who wrote the words of a popular hymn, "What a Friend We Have in Jesus."

At Serpent Mounds Park, owned and operated by the Hiawatha First Nation, we welcomed a stretch and Tim Horton's coffee. We also appreciated John's knowledge of the Mounds when he subbed as our tour guide for this area as well. Of the nine burial mounds of the Point Peninsula people, a zigzag one (thus "a serpent") is the only one of its kind in Canada.

Further along Rice Lake at Elmhurst Resort we enjoyed an explanatory boat ride around a distant island, accompanied by entertaining loons and herons. Although we could not see the perspective from the lake, we were observing tear-shaped drumlins formed at the end of the Ice Age. Having worked up an appetite, our ride was followed by an enjoyable and relaxing luncheon at the Resort.

Our final stop was at Lang Pioneer Village where well-informed guides introduced us to the progression of pioneer housing with the appropriate furnishings for each period. As well as houses, we toured machine sheds, a school, a church and a hotel. Fortunately, our trip was well timed to see a 40-foot canoe being built by Village volunteers who were able to answer our many questions concerning this feat. After a hot "cuppa," we motored home better informed and happy to have spent the day on Ontario's back roads.



Part of memorial to Joseph Scriven.





Photograph by Carol M. King

Part of the group reading an explanatory Serpent Mound sign.



Log house at Lang Pioneer Village.



Photograph by John W. Selman

Part of the Serpent Mounds



General store at Lang Pioneer Village.



Photograph by Carol M. King

End of the boat cruise on Rice Lake. The island in the background is a good example of a drumlin.



Elmhirst Resort lodge.



Photograph by Carol M. King

Some of the group members watching the work on the canoe.

A TRAVELLER IN KINSALE IN 1883

by Ross Johnston

Ross Johnston visits Kinsale as a travelling salesman for the *Whitby Chronicle*

As in previous episodes this account is written under the nom de plume of "Traveller." *Whitby Chronicle* 21 December 1883.

Kinsale Dec. 17: Starting from Greenwood where we parted last and climbing up its weary hill I could not but exclaim (inwardly of course for it would hardly do to say so aloud) *Non sum qualis eram.*¹

As I went onward and upward my thoughts recurred to my venerable friend Mr. Green, and his grief and the grief of the parents and friends at the sudden death of Miss Agnes Edith Meen.

Did you ever read Johnson's "Rasselas, or, the Happy Valley?"² If so you will recollect the philosopher finding a maiden lamenting bitterly over the loss of a choice cup or vase she had accidentally broken. The philosopher tried to sooth her grief by telling her it was useless to lament for what could not be restored. "Alas!" said the maiden, "that is the very reason that I lament."

We all know more or less of the uncertainty of human life, and the certainty of death, but to say *Mors omnibus communis* affords no consolation in the hour of personal trial.³ The blessed gospel, which brings "life and immortality to light," is, despite the scoffer's jeer, the grand panacea for the wounded heart.

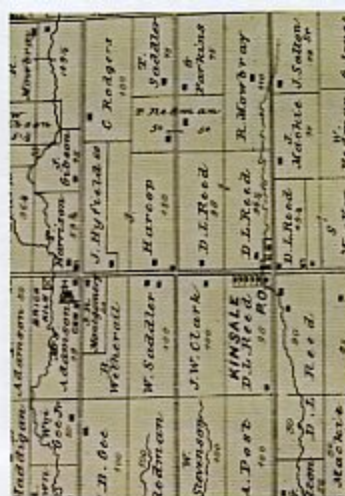
Directing my main course eastward, with various side-eddies and whirls in other directions, I proceeded to Kinsale, and took stock of its indus-

tries. I found Mr. B. Wagner busy at his forge. He is village and country blacksmith, and makes himself useful in various ways, one important position occupied by him being that of Sunday-school Superintendent.

Mr. Richard Brignall is shoemaker for the community and while he can make a tight fit, I heard no complaints of his boots causing corns. Richard has the confidence of the public.

The village carpenter is Mr. John Lawrence, and his business is not confined to his immediate neighborhood. Mr. B. Wetherall is the accommodating Postmaster, and a good deal of his time is consumed in attending to the duties of his office, for which he receives between thirty and forty dollars.⁴ Is it not a grand thing that the office is not elective! What a pull there would be between contending parties, and what spoil would fall into the hands of the victor. What a run there would be, in such an event on the cider works of Mr. Geo. Salton, who keeps a cider mill here.⁵ The pressure of the business is not heavy, for the present at least owing to the failure of the apple crop.

Mr. Joseph Sadler, true to his name, keeps a saddle and harness-maker's shop. Joseph is a man of judgment and foresight, and has an eye to the beginnings as well as the endings of his trade. As saddles are made of pig-skin



Portion of 1877 map showing Kinsale.

Illustration: Historical Atlas of Ontario County (1877)

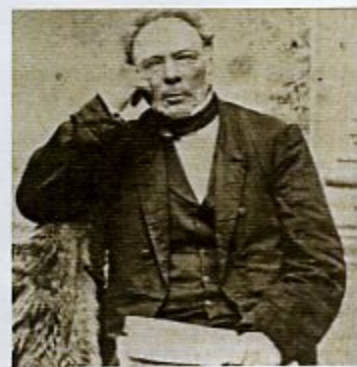
Joseph, in order to produce good saddles, sets to work by seeking to produce good pigs. Berkshire and Suffolk are his specialties. He also gives much attention to fowl raising and has a very fine lot of pure light Brahmas.

There is a Temperance Hall in the village, indicative of a temperance spirit in the community. It is used for various purposes such as Grange meetings, tea meetings and Sunday-school. There is also a Methodist church the windows of which got badly broken with the hail storm last summer. Regular services are held and a protracted meeting was in course of operation at time of my visit.

While in the neighborhood of Greenwood and Kinsale, I spent a very pleasant hour or more in the society of Ebenezer Birrell, Esq., and his esteemed son and family.⁶ Mr. Birrell is a fine specimen of the real Scottish gentleman not only as to cordiality of manners but as to critical skill and force of intellect. He has a keen relish for literature but uses a wise discrimination in his choice of dishes. At the close of a day of weary toil, lightened and cheered however by many gleams of sunshine, I found a resting place and most kind and considerate treatment at the residence of Mr. Thomas Redman, who, with his kind and intelligent wife and daughter entertained me right royally.⁷

Before taking my departure in the morning, I had a look through his well kept premises, and found everything in excellent order. He has the most complete arrangement for watering stock that I have ever had the pleasure of seeing. There is a good spring with

pumps on the side of a hill at the distance of perhaps 100 yards [91 m] from the buildings. From this spring the water is conveyed in iron pipes to the barn and admitted through the basement wall into the horse and stables. Each department is provided with a tank into which the water is conveyed to the pipes and the surplus carried off by a continuation of pipes in succeeding department, and then out through another wall into a large trough on the outside, from which it is admitted into an underground drain and carried off into the fields. The horses and cattle can in this way be watered indoors in stormy



Ebenezer Birrell (1800-1888)

weather, and much trouble and inconvenience avoided.

Mr. Redman, though well advanced in years, has a clear head, and can plan and execute with much wisdom and skill. I shall not soon forget the kind treatment received at his house. I received like kindness at the house of Mr. W.J. Rogers.⁸ The remembrance of kind words and acts is always sweet.

Now dear Chronicle, good night and pleasant dreams.

Traveller

Notes

- 1 Roughly, "I am a different person today." The phrase was originally found in Horace's *Odes*, IV, 3-4. The full line is: "Non sum qualis eram bonae sub regno Cynarae." = "I am not what I was under the reign of good Cynara." The line was used in 1896 as the ironic title of a poem by Ernest Dowson (1867-1900), which poem, incidentally, contained the phrase "gone with the wind," which itself became the title of a book (and movie) in the next century.
- 2 Samuel Johnson (1709-1784) wrote "The History of Rasselas, Prince of Abyssinia," which he published in 1759. It is an essay on the "choice of life."
- 3 The Latin phrase signifies "death is universal."
- 4 Concession 5, Lot 6.
- 5 Concession 5, Lot 2.
- 6 On Birrell see *Pathmaster* 2:1 (1998), pp. 1-2.
- 7 Concession 6, Lot 5.
- 8 Concession 6, Lot 6.



The hamlet of Kinsale, date unknown

Photo courtesy of Greta Mowbray



Dorothy Eddis, "Seated Woman"
A Donation of Artwork

The PTHS is very grateful to Barbara and Alan Black for their donation of a charcoal sketch by Dorothy Eddis. This work of art was created about 1919 (or earlier), before Ms Eddis became Mrs. Andrew Glen (1920) and moved to Pickering Township (in the fall of 1923). We have written about the artistic career of Dorothy Eddis Glen in an earlier edition of *Pathmaster* (II(4):29-30). The sketch was untitled by the artist so we have supplied the name. Joan Eddis, of Ottawa, has kindly supplied all other information we have about the sketch. The Blacks were long-time Pickering friends of Dorothy and Andrew Glen.



MILESTONES

We congratulate PTHS Vice-President, Tom Mohr, for his recent wedding to Deb Staples. The wedding was held on 28 August 2004, at the Petticoat Creek Branch Library, with His Honour, Mr. Justice David Stone officiating.

BROUGHAM'S EARLY BLACKSMITHS

by Mrs. T.C. Brown

Fern Miller sent this piece to us. It was written by her grandmother, Isabelle Smith Brown, wife of Thomas Clayton Brown (she wrote under the name Mrs. T.C. Brown). Fern is the wife of Robert Miller who wrote the history of Brougham (1973). Robert owed a great debt to Mrs. Brown, as may be seen by comparing his discussion of early blacksmiths, pp. 19-24, with Brown's, although he was able to add considerably to the story.¹

In the early days of the settlement of the country, when the horse had superceded the oxen, no trade or industry was more necessary than the blacksmith shop, and in every little settlement a shop was soon in operation. In Brougham the first shop was a stone structure, situated on the Roland Hardin lot,² and the first blacksmith I remember, was a man named Meadows.³ There were a lot of little Meadows ... the family lived where the Harvey Liscombes now live.⁴ The day the Family Herald of Montreal, arrived, the village women met at the Meadows' home, and the serials were read aloud, by one of the number.

After the Meadows moved to Manitoulin Island, a Mr. Bets was blacksmith for some years, but early in the 70's, Mr. William Mosgrove, of Oshawa, a son-in-law of the late Robert Brown, who had built the large frame shop and adjoining house, sold the property to Mr. Mosgrove.⁵ Mr. Brown built the shop as a plant, to manufacture buggies, wagons and coffins before the days of funeral homes, but as time went on, factories superceded the country shop and the last buggy made here was sold to the late John Cowan in 1886. Mr. Cowan was a merchant here in the old Central Hotel premises.⁶

The old stone shop was falling down, and Mr. Mosgrove converted the front half of the wood-working shop into a blacksmith shop, and from 1872 [until] when he passed away, he catered to the needs of the farming community of this district and left behind him a memory of what true neighborliness means. The shop was a favorite meeting-place of the farm-

ers as they brought horses to be shod or machinery to be repaired, and all enjoyed the Irish humor and witty sallies of the genial blacksmith, who had no use for pretentious people.

What a fascination it was to the juveniles who watched from the doorway, the fire in the forge, brightened by blow from the bellows, the tongs lifting white hot metal to anvil where the mighty blows from the sledge-hammer made sparks fly and the anvil rang, as a horse-shoe or other article is formed ... a pleasant memory to the kiddies of long ago, and they got those iron hoops to make music on the sidewalks.

During the years, a number of local boys served the three-year apprenticeship to the trade, among them, George Law, retired in Toronto now, Billy Greig, who still has a shop at Ida, Walter Willson, of Greenwood; William Cameron of Haliburton and W.J. Brown, of Toronto.⁷ When any old timer visits the home town, they quote many old sayings, coined by their well-remembered old Boss of Pleasant memory.

Notes:

- 1 Robert A. Miller. 1973. *The Ontario Village of Brougham: Past! Present! Future?* (Brougham: the author).
- 2 Roland Harden is located on the 1945 map in Miller's book at #22 (NE quadrant).
- 3 Miller (1973), p. 20, gives the name of the first blacksmith as Thomas Middaugh. Fern believes that Brown simply mistook the name, or rather couldn't spell it. On the George Phillips' 1857 map at the front of Miller's book a Thomas Middeaguh is shown on Town Lot 14.
- 4 Liscombe is #23 on the 1945 map (NE quadrant).
- 5 Robert Brown was T.C. Brown's father (and Fern Miller's grandfather). Robert Brown's daughter Margaret married William Mosgrove. Fern straightens out a bit of confusion regarding the Brown-Mosgrove connection: Miller (1973) says that Mosgrove was a brother-in-law of Robert Brown, but the Brown family history would indicate a son-in-law, as above.
- 6 The Central Hotel is #11 on the 1945 map (Municipal Building) (NE quadrant).
- 7 Robert Miller learned how to do forge work from Walter Wilson. William J. Brown was Fern's uncle.

MAKING OUR OWN HISTORY

While most of the topics at our general meetings have to do with southern Ontario history — centred on Pickering and Ajax, occasionally we depart from that closed environment when the mood strikes. For our January 2004 meeting, our President, **John Sabean**, who is primarily an historian of the late Middle Ages, decided we might like to hear about how myth-creating superceded fact-finding in early English and Scottish history. Throughout most of the Middle Ages the Scots and the English were at war with each other. The English believed they had an inherent right to rule over Scotland and developed an entirely fictional history to substantiate their claims. The Scots, to defend themselves and keep the English at bay, created their own legendary his-

tory that was meant to counter the arguments of the English tradition. It took several centuries of attack and counter attack until finally in the 18th century both traditions were proven to be entirely false and a new fact-based presentation of historical events won the day.

John Dale Warburton is both a serious historian, genealogist, and President of the Toronto United Empire Loyalist Society on the one hand, and, on the other hand, a comic actor who plays the role of Dr. Zebadiah Zonk, a Victorian-era phrenologist. He has been our guest on several occasions in both these guises. As our February speaker he returned as Dr. Zonk and provided some light-hearted comic relief during the dark days of winter. But it wasn't all done in jest. There was also a more practi-

cal bent to his presentation as he explained the role that phrenology played in 19th century society.

One of the best slide shows we have had in our seven-year history was given at our March meeting by art historian and collector **Peg Forbes**. Peg has her own art gallery, which she formerly ran in the La Cloche mountain area north of Manitoulin Island, and now runs out of her apartment in Toronto. This evening she talked about several women artists that painted in the area of the Great Lakes during the 18th and 19th centuries. Elizabeth Simcoe, Anna Jameson, and Frances Anne Hopkins were all extraordinary women in their respective societies. Each had opportunity to travel more widely than their fellow female contemporaries and each interpreted her environment through her artwork. Peg's research is extensive. Her slides incorporated images of seldom seen art work as well as her own photographic images.

We had **William Parish** as a speaker in our first year of operation. We thought it was time to have him back to address a different audience on the early history of Ajax. And who better to tell this history than one of the

history-makers himself. Parish was there at the beginning of the town, served on the first Town of Ajax Council, and as the town's third mayor from 1958 through 1963. Parish has seen the town grow from the post-war struggle to find an identity to the modern town Ajax is today with all its modern facilities and burgeoning population.

Rae Fleming's father ran a general store in Argyll, Ontario for many years. It seems appropriate that Rae would be the one to compile a history of *General Stores of Canada*. He came to us in May to tell us about his cross-country research. To that story he added some references to the 1939 Royal Tour, another matter of great interest to him because of items he has collected over the years.

Pioneer gardens was the topic of **Helen Skinner**, our June speaker. Helen has spent many years researching publications, diaries and letters of pioneers and early travellers in Ontario to find references to horticulture. With this knowledge she was able to design the gardens at Black Creek Pioneer Village in the style of 1867.



**PICKERING
TOWNSHIP
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

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