

Dipping into the past...

150 YEARS AGO

Thursday, March 31, 1864

From The Sun, Orangeville, compliments of Dufferin County Museum and Archives:

We understand that our townsman, Mr. Guy Leslie, has been appointed postmaster of Orangeville, in place of Dr. Hewat, resigned.

ORANGEVILLE COUNCIL ? The Village council met at Bell's Hotel on Monday evening last, and ? passed two important By-Laws, one providing for the commutation of statute labor at 40 cents a day, if paid before the 1st of July in each year, and the other regulating the height of fences and appointing and defining the duties of Fence-Viewers. The Fence-Viewers appointed for the current year are Messrs. Thomas Dawson, Thomas Knight, John Corbett, Peter McNab, Thomas Huskinson and David Youmans. Dr. Hewat introduced a By-Law respecting animals running at large and pounds and pound-keepers which was read a first time. A communication from J. Jenkins and others praying the council to cause the saw logs on Wellington street to be removed, was received and read, and the clerk instructed to notify the owner of the said logs to remove them off the highway forthwith.

Mr. W.G. Culloden advertises a stock of wall paper in our issue of today, at prices that ought to command the patronage of every prudent house-keeper.

A MAN ATTACKED BY A BEAR ? One day last week as Mr. Archibald Nixon of Proton was returning home through the woods, three cubs suddenly sprang from under a stump in his path, which he killed, one after the other. Just as he had accomplished this, their dam appeared on the scene. Enraged at the loss of her young, she made towards Mr. Nixon, who perceiving no advantage in flight, determined to stand his ground. Armed only with a bludgeon, he awaited the attack and just as the bear came within his reach, he struck her a powerful blow on the snout which broke both her jaws. This lucky blow though it tended to increase her ferocity, so far disabled her that she was easily overcome, and soon fell beneath the repeated strokes of Mr. Nixon. The bear was a large one, but having lain in her lair all winter, was very poor.

Mr. Thomas Brassey, the eminent railway contractor, is said to have entered into contracts with the Russian Government amounting to 24,000 pounds sterling to construct railways from St. Petersburg to Odessa, and from Odessa on to Sebastopol in the Crimea. The transactions of Mr. Brassey since 1835 in railway contracts have amounted to not less than 100,000,000 pounds sterling.

THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION ? Wash-ington: General Grant, who arrived here this morning, proceeds at once to the front. The reorganization of the army will be quietly and speedily consummated. Gen. W.F Smith, whom the Senate confirmed as Major General, will have a command in the East, next to Grant. His position will really be chief of staff to the Lieut. General and as such direct the movements of whoever may be nominally in command of the army of the Potomac. It is understood that Gen. Grant, after re-organizing the army to his satisfaction, will give the rebels a taste of its fighting qualities before he returns west.

Improved Farms for Sale within a few miles of Orangeville ? No Money Required Down :

East half lot 7, Con. 1. WHS Mono, containing 100 acres, 40 of which are cleared. On the premises are log buildings. The property adjoins that of the late Moses Harshaw. East half lot No. 8, and south-east quarter of Lot No. 9, Con. 1 EHS Mono, containing 150 acres, 100 of which is cleared, well fenced and ready for Spring Crops. Good log buildings on the premises. West half of lot 8, Con. 3 EHS, Mono containing 100 acres, 50 of which are cleared and ready for Spring Crops. Good Log Buildings on the premises. Also the east half of lot 8, Con. 6, EHS, Mono, containing 100 acres, 80 of which are cleared. On the premises are log buildings. For further information apply to M. McCarthy, Barrister, Orangeville.

125 YEARS AGO

Thursday, April 4, 1889

Mr. W. H. Hunter, ex-Warden of Dufferin, has returned home from an extended tour of the Pacific Coast and the province of British Columbia, which he made with his daughter. He told a representative of the Toronto Empire that there is more poverty in California than could be met with anywhere in Canada. He gave a glowing description of British Columbia, particularly the city of Vancouver, where he spent some days in the company of Editor John McLagan of the Vancouver World. He met many Ontario people out there who were as confident as he about the great future of the city. There is the hum and bustle of busy life on the streets, and the ring of the hammer and the noise of steam power can be heard on every hand where buildings are going up with astonishing rapidity. They are a great 12,000 people for progress. Shipping from the Far East is rapidly increasing; the wares of Japan and other countries being distributed from that city over the Eastern States of the Union and Canada. The timber and mineral wealth is enormous and is attracting capital every day. He speaks enthusiastically of the climate, which has little of winter in it. Mr. Hunter stayed off at Banff Springs, Calgary and other places. From Medicine Hat east, he says, the farmers have been putting the seed in the ground since March 2.

Mr. W. D. McBride, teacher at Silk's School house, was before Magistrate Dunbar in Shelburne on Friday evening last on the charge of whipping a boy too severely. The complaint was laid by Mr. Jacob Silk. From the evidence it appears the boy deserved all he got and more and the Magistrate dismissed the case.

The County of Dufferin, with a population of 22,589 in the year 1887, had 529 births, a decrease of 41 compared to 1886. In the same year 169 marriages were registered, a decrease of seven, while there were 284 deaths, an increase of 46 from the 238 recorded in 1887.

100 YEARS AGO

Thursday, April 2, 1914

Saturday's Toronto Star said that while there is no official report of it among the roundhouse papers of the Toronto Grey and Bruce Railway, it is said that the little English-built locomotive Mono once made the fastest trip ever between Toronto and Owen Sound. No engine driver alive today would ever attempt to cover the distance of 122 miles in less than three hours with one of the heavy locomotives now used on the line. If he did attempt it, he and his engine would probably throw themselves from one of the curves on this line of extraordinary curvature, into the ditch. But the Mono, with her little driving wheels, gripped the old narrow gauge, tore up and down the grades and took the curves and made a journey that the older railwaymen of Ontario talk about to this day.

The trip took place in August, 1876, when a superintendent hurried to the roundhouse in Toronto and told the engineer, Davy, he had to get some freight records through to Owen Sound before a ship, the Africa, sailed at 4 p.m. "All right, Sir," Davy was quoted by an old TG&B man as saying. "I'm wooded up and she's carrying 180. If I can get through to Shelburne without wooding up, we'll make it." He then climbed into the cab, caught the bundle of manifests tossed to him by the superintendent, opened the throttle and started the greatest race against time in the history of the division. The engine pulled up to the wood pile in Shelburne on time and a dozen men were waiting to load the tender with well-dried maple. The engine made it to the Owen Sound wharf by 3:48 p.m., in time for the manifests to be delivered and the Africa to set sail on time.

75 YEARS AGO

Thursday, April 6, 1939

Last Saturday morning, presumably between 2 and 3 a.m., the safe at Shelburne Creamery was blown open, the thieves securing about \$120 in cash. Nearby residents were awakened by the explosion but did not know the cause until Creamery staff found the office in great disorder when they opened up in the morning. The safe door had been blown off and the contents rifled. The explosion broke outside windows in the office. The burglars had broken into a CPR toolhouse to get some of the tools used in the robbery. The creamery was previously robbed a few months ago, and since then some minor marauding attempts had been made at a local service station.

Speaking in the House of Commons last Thursday, Prime Minister Mackenzie King said his government believes that conscription of men for overseas service would not be a necessary or effective step. So long as this government is in power, no such measure will be enacted.

And we still have no Spring. It hasn't been snowing a great deal in the past few days, but neither has there been a decided thaw.

50 YEARS AGO

Wednesday, April 1, 1964

Coroner's Jury, inquiring into the death of Hugh Bates, 90, in Dufferin Oaks, heard criticism of both Oaks officials and Shelburne's volunteer firemen. The jury was told firemen ignored a fire detector panel at the entrance to the Oaks and spent 10-15 minutes trying to locate Mr. Bates' room, their progress being delayed by locked exit doors and fence gates whose keys were with officials who were off duty. Mr. Bates died 90 minutes after he was removed from his smoke-filled room, suffering second and third degree burns over 90% of his body. The fire had apparently been ignited by his pipe.

Shelburne Kinsmen Club is planning to raise funds to install artificial ice in the town's arena.

10 YEARS AGO

Friday, April 2, 2004

Orangeville Police Service is investigating two home invasions that occurred in the last month. A woman who resides just doors from the site of one of the incidents said she had been through a similar ordeal while living in Brampton. "I have been through it before," she explained to a reporter, saying she had moved to Orangeville for her family's safety.