

# ESQUESING HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

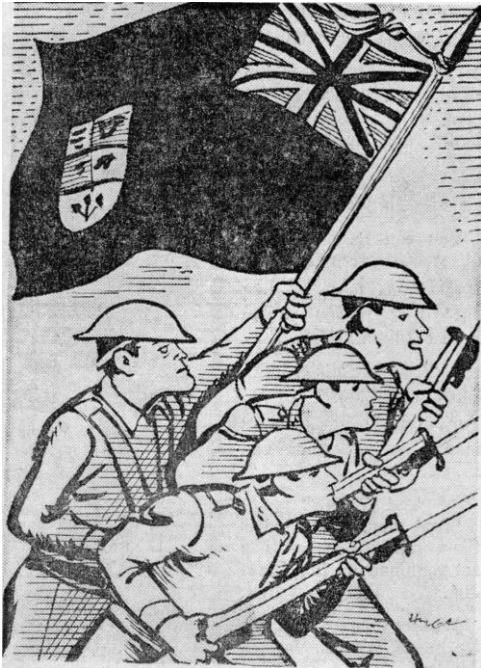
P.O. Box 51, Georgetown, Ontario, Canada L7G 4T1

Vol. 48 No. 2

May-June 2023

[www.esquesinghistoricalsociety.com](http://www.esquesinghistoricalsociety.com)

## THE CANADIAN FLAG DEBATE



The issue of a new Canadian flag has accomplished one thing – it has shoved Cyprus off the front pages of the newspapers and given us a topic on which everyone can have an opinion... And no matter what a new flag contains, be it Union Jacks, stars, stripes, maple leaves, beavers, wheat sheaves or trilliums, no one design will find favour with the large majority... We cannot speak for other provinces, nor even for our own, but listening to talk around town we would sum up Georgetown feeling this way. There is a hard core of residents who like the red ensign, don't want it changed and will fight bitterly to retain it as national flag. There is another group who

might agree to a change only if a new design appeals to them. And there is a large group who have never given the flag too much thought, accepting it as we do other facets of life... -“Unnecessary Controversy,” Walter C. Biehn, *Georgetown Herald*, 28 May 1964

It's now beginning to look more and more as though we may be waking up one of these mornings to find that we have a new flag whether we like it or not. While we still have some faith in the democratic form of government we believe we may end up with a flag not acceptable to a large majority of the Canadian citizens... We as citizens, if we favour the ensign, must fly it from our homes and places of business on every public holiday and at every opportunity. Perhaps in this way, those of us who apparently have no public voice could speak with great emphasis. If you want the Red



Sketches from *The Telegram*, 15 June 1964

Ensign, as we do, and we think you do, display it prominently and proudly. Otherwise some new, weird flag is going to be fluttering over the Post Office in the very near future. Victoria Day and Dominion Day this year may be the last chance we have. –“Showing the Flag...,” David R. Dills, *Acton Free Press*, 30 April 1964

### Halton's M.P. Harley Supports a New Flag

The Member of Parliament for this riding, Dr. Harry Harley, has declared himself a proponent of a 'distinctive Canadian flag' other than the Red Ensign.... He said in an interview that he would vote for the flag allegedly favoured by the Prime Minister, and the likeness of which appears on a Canadian stamp issued last week. He added, however, that while he approved of the three maple leaves in the centre he was tepid in regard to the blue stripes – one



on each side – which represents Canada's two coasts. -*Georgetown Herald*, 21 May 1964



EHS04638

These Georgetown High School students, members of the model Parliament, hoisted this home-made banner to show support for Prime Minister Pearson's proposed flag. After it was ordered down, they paraded the downtown streets with the banner. -

*Herald* 4 June 1964

EHS06962



## Anglican Rector Has Canadian Flag Idea

By Rev. R.J. Stubley, Glen Williams

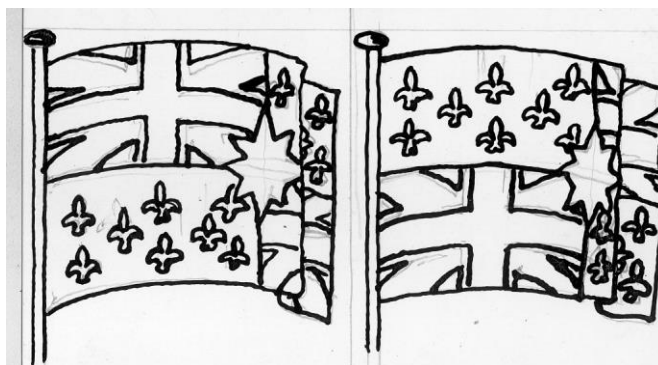
A flag, it has been well said, is a nation's signature. And the best flags, like signatures, proclaim a nation's character.

The Union Jack proclaims the union of English, Scottish and Irish Kingdoms.

The Union Jack is Composed of the

Queen's badges for those lands. In fact, all Commonwealth flags are the Queen's badges for the countries and people they designate. If some flag or flags other than the Red Ensign be adopted for Canada, they should proclaim Canada's unique character.

Canada had two founding nations, old Britain and New France. Is there any reason why Canada should not have two Queen's flag-badges? -*Georgetown Herald*, 21 Feb. 1963



Georgetown Legion Branch 120 Colour Party marches into Remembrance Park, 2005 EHS24274

Phyllis Briggs, of Stewarttown school student council accepts a Canadian flag from Acton Lakeside IODE chapter Regent Mrs. A.J. Orr, at a recent ceremony there. -*Georgetown Herald* 10 June 1971 EHS05864





## **ESQUESING HISTORICAL SOCIETY SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS**

2023

Wed. 10 May

### **THE ARMS AND FLAGS OF ESQUESING AND HALTON HILLS: LOCAL, PROVINCIAL, AND FEDERAL**

Heraldry and Vexillology are two related disciplines that most people probably do not realize they come across every day. However, the study of coats of arms and flags often more directly links to the history of the local area than most people think. Charles Veale will take a look at the Arms and Flags of the local area at every level of government from the founding of Esquesing Township to the present day. We will also look at the badges of local organizations that are unique to the area.

***Knox Presbyterian Church, 116 Main St. S., Georgetown, ON 7:00***

Wed. 14 June

### **GLEN WILLIAMS WALKING TOUR**

Local Historian John Mark Rowe brings the Society back to the Glen for an evening walking tour. Unlike earlier tours we will begin at the Beaumont Mill Antiques building. This walk will include climbing a hill so wear your runners!

***Beaumont Mill Antiques & Collectibles, 586 Main Street, Glen Williams, 6:30 p.m.***

Sat. 1<sup>st</sup> July

### **GLEN WILLIAMS WALKING TOUR**

Kick off Canada Day with a morning stroll through the village of Glen Williams with local historian John Mark Rowe. The tour will conclude with plenty of time to secure a good spot to watch the noon parade through the village.

***Williams Mill parking lot, 515 Main Street, Glen Williams, 10 a.m.***

Wed. 13 Sept.

### **TORONTO SUBURBAN RAILWAY WALK**

***George Kennedy Mural, Mill & Back Streets, Georgetown, 7 p.m.***

**INVITE YOUR NEIGHBOUR TO BECOME A MEMBER!**

- All Meetings are FREE to attend -

MEETING UPDATES: Visit <http://esquesinghistoricalsociety.com>

INQUIRIES: [esquesinghs@gmail.com](mailto:esquesinghs@gmail.com)

## Society Notes

### EHS EXECUTIVE

|                |              |
|----------------|--------------|
| Stephen Blake  | President    |
| Steve McNamara | Treasurer    |
| Karen Hunter   | Secretary    |
| J. Mark Rowe   | Archivist    |
| David Borrett  | Membership   |
| Ray Denny      | Publications |
| Charles Veale  |              |

Send all inquiries to: [esquesinghs@gmail.com](mailto:esquesinghs@gmail.com)

EHS website:

<http://esquesinghistoricalsociety.com>

### EHS NEWSLETTER

John Mark Rowe prepared this newsletter.

Please consider an electronic newsletter sent to your e-mail address. Not only will you save the Society postage, you get to see the colour pictures!

### MEMBERSHIP

We currently have 75 paid 2023 members. Our membership year runs from February. The individual membership rate is \$20. The family or institution rate is \$25. The EHS is still very happy to accept personal cheques from our members. Please note that all cheques must be made payable to "Esquesing Historical Society", fully spelled out. Membership fees can be mailed to our post box, dropped off at the home of any executive member or at one of our meetings.

### CANADIANA ON-LINE

<http://online.canadiana.ca/search>

### ARCHIVES OF ONTARIO

[www.archives.gov.on.ca](http://www.archives.gov.on.ca)

### EHS ARCHIVES

The EHS Archives has processed 28, 636 photographs. A total of 7013 of those images are posted on Halton Hills Images.

The EHS Archives has been supporting Heritage Acton in their requests for photographs to use in their 2024 calendar. *The Acton Monthly* is a small paper put out by Scott Brooks. The booklet-style paper is also available digitally. Started in November 2022, Brooks plans on depositing copies in the EHS Archives and they will be added to the Halton Hills Newspapers website.

A detailed listing of our archives is available at

<https://www.archeion.ca/esquesing-historical-society>

### HERITAGE HALTON HILLS

Limehouse Presbyterian Church was approved for heritage designation under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act. It joins Boston Presbyterian Church as the only two designated churches in the town. Homes at 548 Main, Glen Williams; 20 Queen, Georgetown and 68 Bower, Acton were also designated.

### HALTON HERITAGE SERVICES

To book a research time with Heritage Services, please get in touch at

<https://www.halton.ca/The-Region>

### HALTON-PEEL OGS

<https://haltonpeel.ogs.on.ca/>

May 4 *Glen Wright*: Always Get Your Man: Researching the Men of the Mounted Police, 1873-1920 -7 p.m.

### DEVEREAUX HOUSE

### LIMEHOUSE MEMORIAL HALL

June 17 -Strawberry Tea 1-3 pm at 12389 Fifth Line, Limehouse.

### HALTON HILLS SPORTS MUSEUM

<http://haltonhillssportsmuseum.blogspot.ca/>

June 8 – Hall of Fame Induction Celebration at Mold-Masters SportsPlex, Gordon Alcott Hall, 221 Guelph St., Georgetown. The 2023 inductees are Ian Clark, Jim Lindsay, Monica Mastalerz, Gary Neil Miller and Steve Petit. \$30.

### L.M. MONTGOMERY MUSEUM

The L.M. Montgomery Museum website is now live at

<https://lmmontgomerynorval.com/>

### STREETSVILLE HIST. SOCIETY

The Leslie Log Cabin at 4415 Mississauga Road is open on Wednesdays and Sundays from 1-4 p.m.

May 27 – Streetsville Horticultural Society Plant Sale – 8:30 – 2 This includes a clearance sale for the Streetsville Historical Society gift shop.

### BRAMPTON HIST. SOCIETY

May 18 -*Dan O'Reilly* -Wildfield

June 15 -Members' Show and Tell

Meetings are at Heart Lake Presbyterian



Church at 7 p.m. \$5 fee for non-members.

#### **MILTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Waldie Blacksmith Shop at 16 James Street, Milton.

May 18 16 - *Matthew Wilkinson: The Darker Side, Stories of Crime & Punishment* 7:30 p.m.

June 3 -Downtown Milton Summerfest 12 p.m.

June 8 - TBD

#### **OAKVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

<https://www.oakvillehistory.org/speakers-nights.html>

May 16 -*Celia & John Desmond: Tradition Dolls and Watches*

#### **NASAGIWEYA HIST. SOCIETY**

[info@nasagiweyahistoricalsociety.com](mailto:info@nasagiweyahistoricalsociety.com)

#### **TRAFALGAR HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

<http://tths.ca/>

May 19 -Open Archives -1:30-3:30 Palermo Schoolhouse.

June 6 – *John McDonald: The Temperance Movement, Prohibition in Halton County* – 7 p.m. Palermo Schoolhouse, 2431 Dundas St W, Oakville, ON

#### **HALTON COUNTY RADIAL MUSEUM**

May 6 – Opening Day 10-5; Open weekends throughout May and June. Admission applies.

#### **LOCAL DIGITAL RESOURCES**

Our Digital World, host of Halton Hills newspapers, Halton Images and Halton News hosts newspapers from across Ontario. You can start searching at:

<https://ourdigitalworld.net/>

#### **NEW ROYAL TITLES ACT**

The new Canadian Style & Titles for The King will be as follows:

*Charles the Third, by the Grace of God King of Canada and*

*His other Realms and Territories, Head of the Commonwealth.*

This defines the King's position in this Realm. It would have been legally harmless to leave in the reference to the UK, as our courts recently upheld the principle of symmetry, whereby the Sovereign of the UK is Canada's Sovereign - but given the general lack of knowledge of the finer points of our polity, the omission is probably as well. -*Monarchist League of Canada*

#### **SPROAT FAMILY LETTERS**

Paul Sproat (St. Mary's, Ontario) and his cousin John Sproat (Kirkcudbright, Scotland) have completed 5 years of research based on 80 original letters in Paul's possession. Most of the letters were written between 1821 and 1860 to brothers Adam and John Sproat who left Scotland in 1821 and settled in the Scotch Block, Esquesing, near Milton, Ontario.

All 80 letters are included in the document. Each has been revised to be reader friendly. An appendix has been created for each letter with pertinent information relating to the letter.

To access the letters click - [Here is a link](#) To get the full address, just email Mark Rowe [mrowe6@sympatico.ca](mailto:mrowe6@sympatico.ca)

#### **MAY IS MUSEUM MONTH**

May is Museum Month which coincides with International Museum Day on May 18. With this year's theme of "Museums, Sustainability and Wellbeing," all Ontarians are encouraged to come together and explore Ontario's 700+ museums, galleries, and heritage sites.

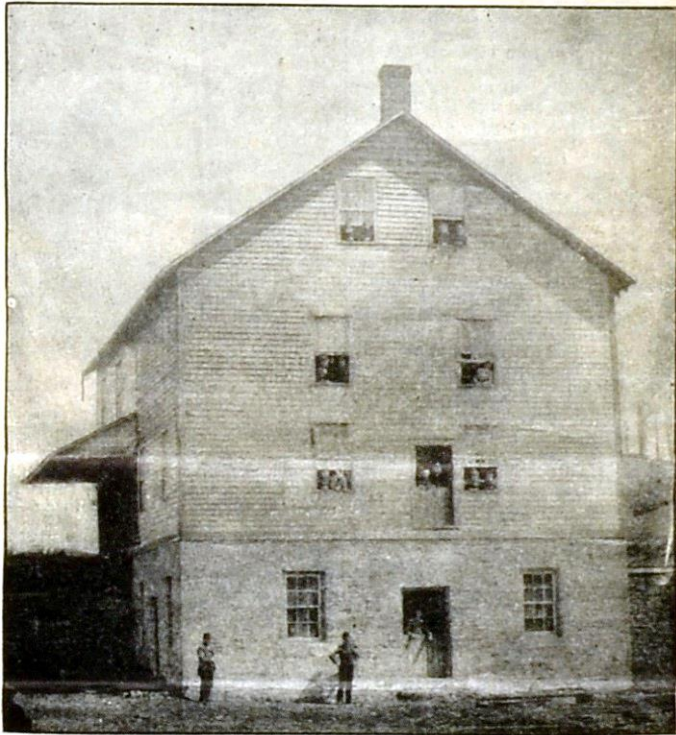
#### **INDIGENOUS HISTORY AND HERITAGE GATHERING**

This gathering is one of the many important events held during Indigenous History Month. It brings together diverse groups who are working to amplify the distinct stories of Indigenous Peoples across Turtle Island.

Thought leaders from across Turtle Island will discuss how Indigenous histories can be researched, preserved, and shared. The gathering provides a space for dialogue between Indigenous and non-Indigenous professionals and community members. It is being held in Ottawa from June 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>.

#### **SANDRA JORGENSEN HAS DIED**

Long-time EHS member Sandra Jorgensen died 31 March from cancer, at age 66. Her funeral was held at St. Alban's Anglican Church, Glen Williams, with internment at the Glen Cemetery later this year.



JOS. WILLIAMS & CO.'S HOSIERY MILL—Glen Williams.

## WILLIAMS & Co.'s HOSIERY MILL

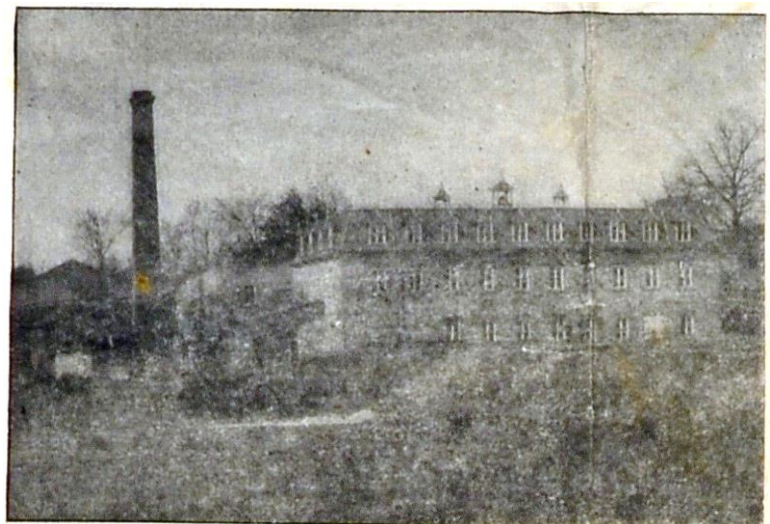
When in 1824 the pioneer Mr. Chas. Williams hewed out a home for himself and family in the heavily wooded dell on the Credit River, a mile or more north of where Georgetown now stands, he little thought his then primitive settlement was destined in time to become a veritable hive of industry with a population numbering nearly seven hundred souls.

For several years after settlement the village bore the name of Williamsburg, in honour of its founder; but when it was found necessary to establish a post-office it was re-christened Glen Williams. The manufacturing interests of this thriving hamlet date from the erection, in 1825, of a saw mill, which was subsequently

followed by flouring and woollen mills. In 1878 the flour and saw mills passed into the possession of Mr. Joseph Williams. In January 1890, the flouring mill was destroyed by fire, and a year or so later the sawmill was reconstructed and converted into a mill for the manufacture of plain and fancy woollen and worsted hosiery of every description – boys knickerbockers being a specialty, as well as ladies' fine cashmere hose. There are about twenty hands employed in this mill, which is three and a half storeys high, and 40 by 60 feet in dimensions. Early in 1891 Mr. Charles E. Williams, a son of the senior proprietor, was admitted to a partnership, and at once installed as superintendent of production.

## GLEN WOOLLEN MILLS

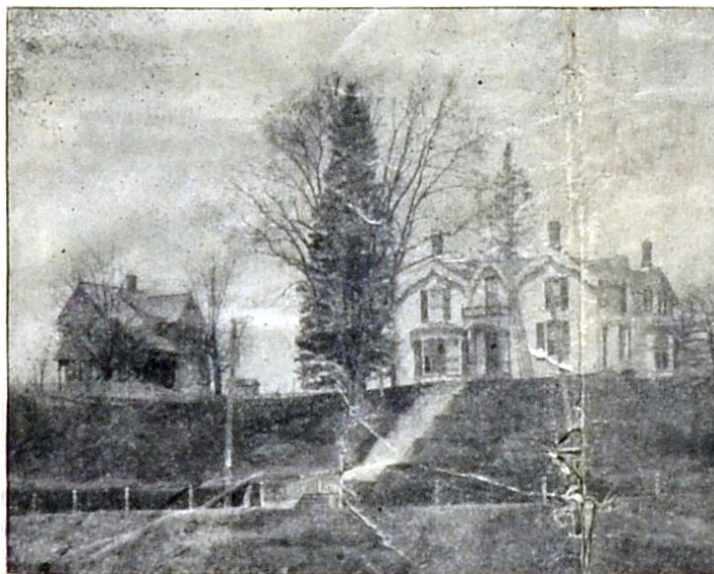
In June 1887, Messrs. John Sykes and Norman Ainley, both of whom were experienced old country mill operatives, located at Glen Williams, and established this, the largest industry, with the exception of the Georgetown Paper Mills, in this vicinity. In 1873 Mr. Sykes came from Huddersfield, Yorkshire, England, to Canada and was



GLEN WOOLLEN MILLS—Glen Williams.



manager of the Montreal Woollen Mills for five years, at the expiration of which time he removed to Weston, Ontario, to assume management of the woollen mills at that place, a position he relinquished to engage in the Glen Williams enterprise. Mr. Ainley, the junior partner, is also a native of Yorkshire. He removed to this country in 1880 and was employed under Mr. Sykes at Weston until the opening of the Glen mills. The main building is of stone, three storeys high, with mansard roof, and 50 by 100 feet in dimensions. Adjoining the main building on the west is No. 2 mill, also of stone, two storeys high and 45 by 100 feet in extent. In addition to the two buildings above mentioned there are five other stone and wooden structures, utilized as boiler house, engine room and warehouses. There are on average sixty hands employed here the year round in the manufacture of carpet yarns, tweeds, blankets, rugs and horse blanket linings. It is safe to say that there is not another similar industry in the Dominion that has run as many hours as these mills since their inception.

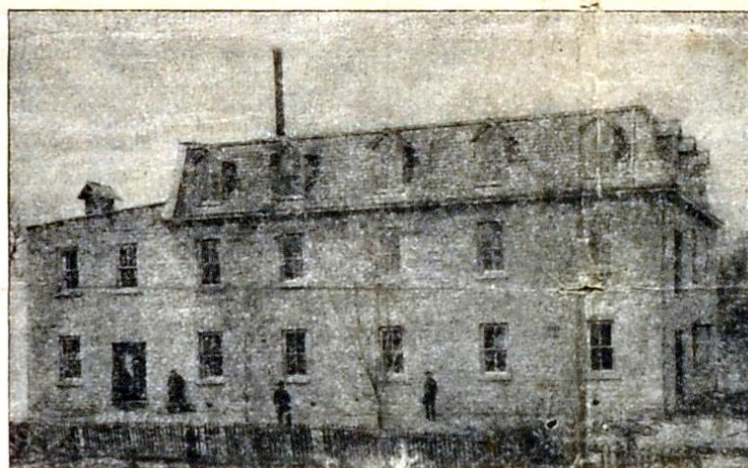


RESIDENCE OF J. SYKES AND N. AINLEY—Glen Williams.

F.W. Newman & Co. are agents for the Glen woollen mills for Quebec, the Maritime provinces and the North-west. The trade for Ontario is supplied directly from the mills. Both proprietors devote their entire time to the inspection and supervision of the mills. Mr. Alfred Sykes superintends the card rooms, while Mr. Harry Holdroyd has charge of the office.

## BEAUMONT'S WOOLLEN MILLS

In 1873 Mr. S. Beaumont began the manufacture of woollen goods at Ancaster, Ont., but



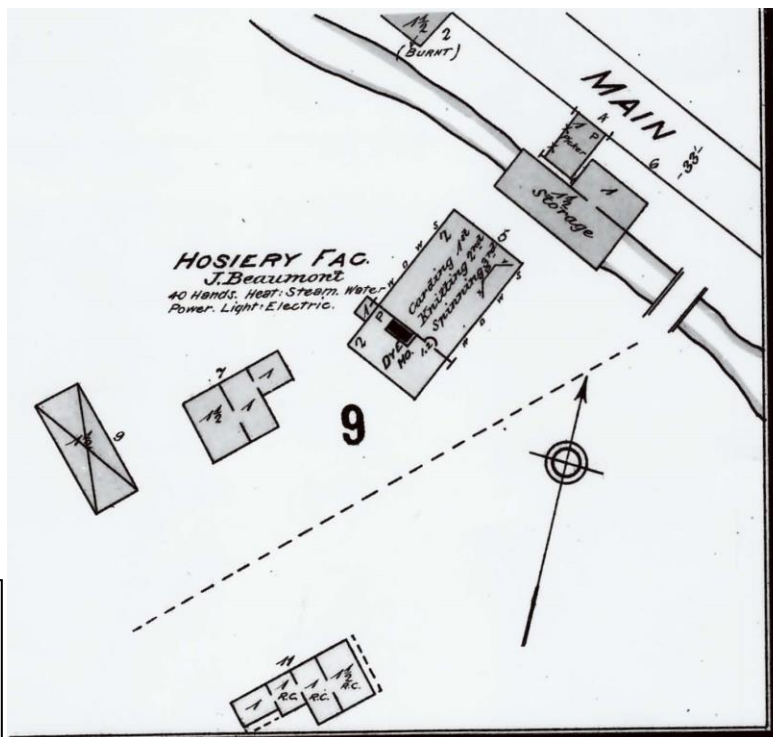
S. BEAUMONT'S WOOLLEN MILLS—Glen Williams.

after several removals located permanently, in 1878, at Glen Williams and founded the enterprise now under consideration. Several structures are required to house this industry. The main building, illustrated in this issue, is of stone, three storeys high and 40 by 80 feet in dimensions; besides which there are two two-storey wooden buildings, one 35 by 60 feet, the



other 50 by 50 feet in extent. The product of these mills consists of knitted underwear, yarns and a high grade of ladies' and gentlemen's worsted and cashmere hosiery. As the mills are now running overtime, an addition to the plant will be made in the near future. In 1885 the business management of the concern was assumed by Mr. Joseph Beaumont, son of the proprietor, who is still at the head of affairs.

An 1898 Fire Insurance map of the Beaumont Mill. Samuel Beaumont's house is at the bottom.  
EHS Archives MG12 A2 #3.01



Beaumont Knitting Mill workers. Samuel Beaumont is the bearded man on the right, with son Joseph next to him, about 1893. EHS00030

**GEORGETOWN**  
**ACADEMY.**

**COMMERCIAL COURSE :**

Book-Keeping by Single and Double Entry,  
Commercial and Mental Arithmetic, Business  
Penmanship, Ornamental Penmanship, Busi-  
ness Correspondence, Commercial Law, &c.

**TEACHERS' COURSE :**

All the subjects required for the highest grade  
of certificate.

**CLASSICAL COURSE :**

Students prepared for Matriculation in Arts,  
Law, Medicine, Surveying, &c.

**FANCY AND ORNAMENTAL  
COURSE :**

Vocal and Instrumental Music, French, Ger-  
man, Crayon Drawing, Pencil Drawing, Oil  
Painting, etc.

**NOTE WELL.—TELEGRAPHY  
AND SHORT-HAND WRITING**

Taught by pushing teachers

Room for any number of Students, male  
and female.  
All the work of the most practical nature.

J. Tait, Principal Teacher of Classics,  
English Grammar, etc.

A. D. Campbell, Teacher of Penmanship,  
Drawing, etc.

M. McCormick, Assistant English and  
Classical Teacher.

E. Dunn, Teacher of Telegraphy.

Mrs. F. Dunn, Teacher of Music.

Send for Circular.

**TAIT & CAMPBELL**  
Georgetown, March, 1873. 30-1f

## 150 YEARS AGO – 1873 NEWS

- \* **GEORGETOWN BAND** – This band which has become quite an institution in Georgetown, will give its first annual concert on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> prox., when it is hoped there will be a large attendance. -*Canadian Champion*, 30 Jan. 1873
- \* A new lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, to be known as Orion Lodge, is we understand, shortly to be instituted in Georgetown. - *Canadian Champion*, 6 Mar 1873
- \* We understand that the enterprising folk of Acton want to have their village incorporated. (*Canadian Champion*, 17 Apr, 1873)
- \* The Queen's Birthday celebrated - baseball - Acton brass band gave promenade concert in the Drill Shed. (*Canadian Champion*, 29 May, 1873)
- \* County Council on June 10<sup>th</sup>: Mr. Clay moved, seconded by Mr. Barber, That the petition of W.H. Storey and 130 others praying for the Council will pass a by-law to incorporate the Village of Acton into a separate municipality, be received, read and referred to a special committee. (*Cdn. Champion*, 12 June, 1873)
- \* Acton, Georgetown, Milton and Oakville will celebrate Dominion Day. (CC, 26 June)
- \* Erin Village Base Ball Club played Acton Victorias. (CC 31 July/73)
- \* A short synopsis of the progress of the village of Acton may be interested to some of your readers. On passing up Mill Street, we come to the Glasgow House, run by Christie, Henderson & Co., the well-known Miltonians, ... Passing further up street, we come to the Canada Glove Works where some fifty hands find constant employment. The firm consists of W.H. Storey, D. McGarvin and Jas. Moore... Passing further up the street we come to the Acton Livery Stables by Ed Mathews, who is well-known

all over... Across the street from his place a neat roughcast building just put up reminds us it is the Acton Bakery... we come to the elegant new building to be christened the Acton Post Office and Town Hall, being built by our enterprising citizen, Jas. Matthews, P.M... another new enterprise, the Acton Drug store. (*Canadian Champion*, 7 Aug, 1873)