

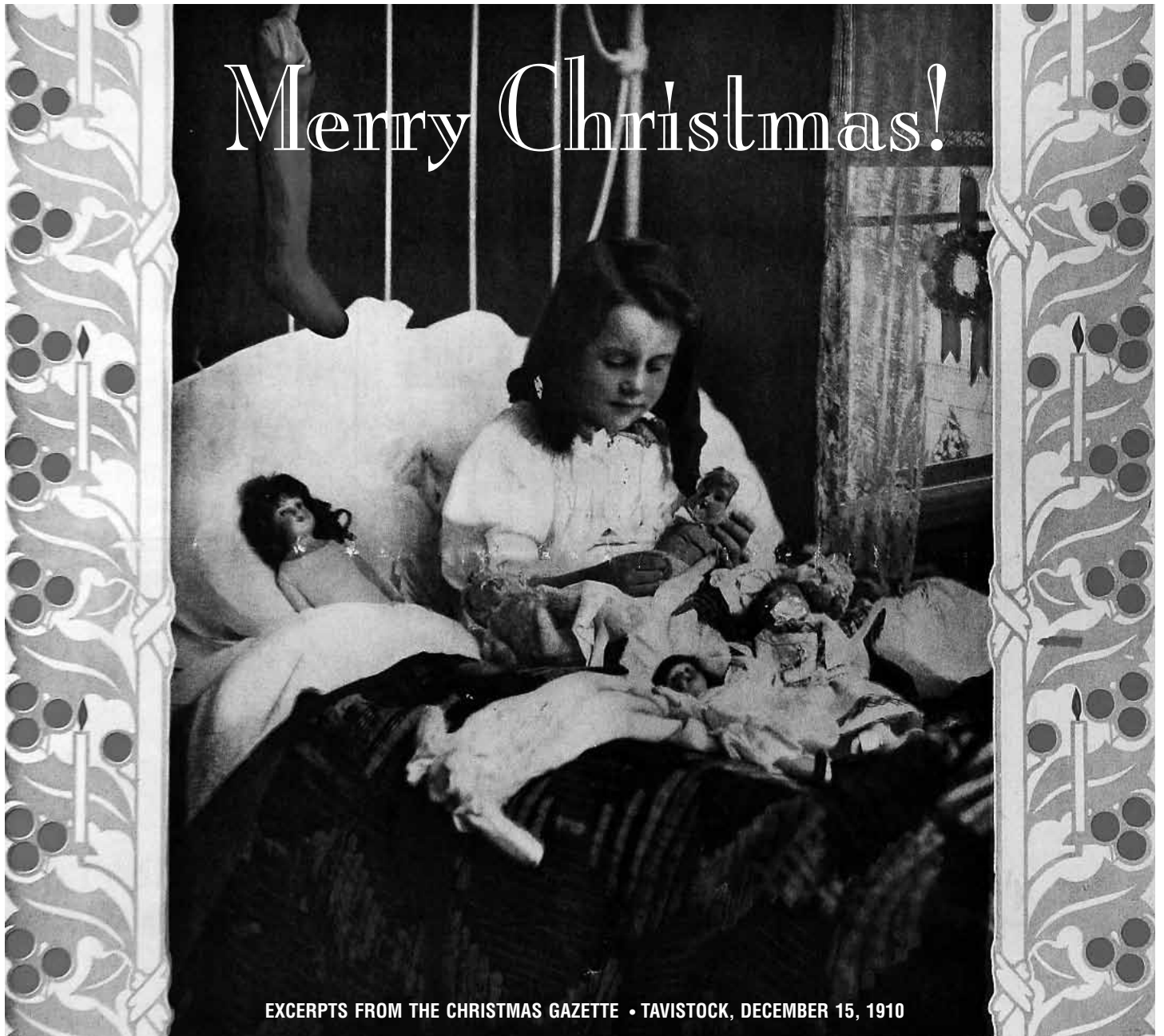
YESTERDAY

News from the Tavistock and District Historical Society

VOLUME 13

WINTER 2009

Merry Christmas!



EXCERPTS FROM THE CHRISTMAS GAZETTE • TAVISTOCK, DECEMBER 15, 1910

**Tavistock & District
Historical Society**

Executive:

Secretary – Sherrill Calder
Treasurer – Bob Rudy

Directors:

Paul Bartlett
Sherrill Calder
Roy Erb
Bill Gladding
Barb Matthies
Ed Pellow
Bob Rudy
Shirley Wagler
Tim Whitlock

Tim Mosher

Honourary Director:

Bruce Halliday

**Tavistock
& District
Historical
Society**

37 Maria Street,
Box 280,
Tavistock, Ontario,
Canada N0B 2R0

**MUSEUM
HOURS:**

Saturdays
10am-12 noon

Other times
by appointment

100 YEARS AGO

Flax Banquet

Last Friday night Mr. V. Stock tendered his annual banquet to his large staff of employees who, during the present season, worked in the fields and also in the mill in the garnering of his large crop of flax, some 275 acres. This social event is now looked forward to as an annual affair by young and old. There were something like 140 present. Long tables were arranged in the Opera House, tastefully decorated and bounteously laden with all the good things that go to make a feast for an epicure. The bevy of waiters were kept quite busy attending to the wants of the youngsters and grownups too. After all had been fed, the evening was spent in music and games and if the enjoyment could be measured by the noise, then all present had “an awful good time”.

Minister’s Body Found In Lake

Rev. Conrad Bolander, who about twenty years ago was a minister of the New Hamburg circuit, and who will be remembered by many members of the Evangelical denomination hereabouts, was found drowned in the lake at Port Elgin last Sunday.

Suggestions For The Housewife

If a piece of cheese is carefully wrapped in a cloth wrung out with vinegar it will neither dry nor gather mold.

A Mean Trick

One day last week a gentleman bought a pair of lady’s shoes and rubbers at one of the stores in the village and placed the parcel in his rig in the Commercial Hotel shed and went to do some more shopping before going home. In the meantime some sneak thief went into the shed and took the parcel. Luckily the party who took the parcel was seen and a prosecution will follow if it is not returned to Krug’s Store.

Butter Wrappers

We have just received a shipment of the best grade of butter parchment wrapping. This is genuine imported vegetable parchment. Your butter will command a better price if done up in neatly printed wrappers. Our butter paper is guaranteed and the ink we use will not run. Let us print your next order. The Tavistock Gazette

Local Happenings

House on Hendershot Street to rent – 8 rooms. Apply to Adam Weicker.

F. Seigner is sole agent in Tavistock for the genuine Newlands Saskatchewan Buffalo Robes interlined with rubber.

The Sunday School entertainment in connection with the Baptist Church will be held on Friday evening, December 16. A good programme is being prepared which will be accompanied by the celebrated limelight views shown by Mr. Wm. Merry of Stratford. Fuller particulars later.

January 5, 1911 Tavistock Gazette

Tavistock Among The Worth-Whiles

The following letter was received at this office this week. It, being a stranger’s opinion of our village, should be an incentive to every resident of Tavistock to put their shoulder to the wheel and have the place more widely advertised.

Dear Editor

One day recently, while in an office in Buffalo waiting for a man, I chanced to see on his table an illustrated Christmas number of a paper. Not having anything to do but to wait for my man I picked up the paper, glanced through it, became interested and read until my man came in. In the first place this paper was published in a town of which I had never before heard, although I have written 14 books on Canada. That place was Tavistock, and the paper The Gazette. Yes, I will admit that I was heartily ashamed of myself to think that I had never heard of a town that could support so interesting a publication as The Gazette. And when my friend, Dr. Conrad Wettlaufer, of the famous Wettlaufer Mine of South Lorain in the Cobalt Silver District, came in and told me of your enterprising town I was even more ashamed of my neglect in not knowing of Tavistock. When I write my book on Ontario I will have to set myself right with your town by including it among the “Worth Whiles” of the province.

But the why of this note, I want a copy of your Christmas number and the following issue, the one in which appears the finishing chapters of My Canadian Idols story ... Louis Frechette’s Christmas Story. It starts too entertainingly to miss the end. I must commend you on your Holiday number. It would do credit to any of the Canadian towns I have known. Yes, and I might say, few of the cities could excel it. Respectfully yours, Anson A. Gard “The Wandering Yankee”

MUSEUM CALENDAR:

Please mark your calendar, check your attics, scour your basements and plan to participate in the 2010 lineup.

Displays feature items related to the theme loaned by people in the community as well as artifacts from the Historical Society's permanent collection of Tavistock and area memorabilia.

Nov. 7 – Jan. 31, 2010

"Tavistock Artists"

Feb 1 - March 26

The museum and archives will be closed on Saturdays but will be open by special appointment for people who wish to do research or want to drop off donations to our permanent collection. The Historical Society will be using this time to catch up on some of our special projects.

March 27 – July 31

"Check Our Your Real Estate" ... an opportunity to see if your house or farm has been researched and, if not, to learn how you can check your real estate's history

August 7 – Oct. 30

"Calendars". We'll be papering our walls with calendars from Tavistock and area businesses from years past.

Sept. 10 – 12

See you at the Tavistock Fall Fair

Nov. 6 – Jan. 23, 2011

"O Christmas Tree"

FRONT PAGE NEWS

Personal and Local

Christmas handkerchiefs, from 5 cents to 60 cents at J.G. Fields.

Messers John McKeller and Arthur Foerster are home from Toronto University for the holidays.

The auction sale of farm stock and implements at Mr. Chas. Dennis's last Friday was a good one. The stuff offered for sale was good and splendid prices were realized. Rudy & Sipple were the auctioneers.

Reeve Appel is in Woodstock this week attending the adjourned session of the Oxford County Graft Investigation which opened on Monday.

Losz der Bull Raus

The little village of Hickson was all torn to pieces with excitement last Monday morning. Monday was shipping day, and among the stock brought in for shipment was a bull owned by a Mr. Lancaster. The animal, which was led with a rope, was quiet enough until it came to the station where between 50 and 75 teams were congregated. The hustle and bustle was more than his bullship could stand and he suddenly became vicious and started on a rampage, scattering men and horses in all directions. Its first attack was made on a team owned by Mr. Thomas Pearson, of the 15th line, East Zorra, and catching one of the horses in the neck with its horns, tore it so badly that it has since died. The next victim of the brute's rage was Mr. Sol Hunsberger who was knocked down and trampled on. Mr. Hunsberger sustained three broken ribs and was also badly bruised about the body. The enraged animal next went through a fence into a field where for a couple of hours it kept the crowd at bay until someone procured a rifle and shot the brute.

Why Bar Eel from Free-for-all Races? by Ed. Baker in Toronto Star

Frank W. Entricken of Tavistock, well known to horsemen on the American continent as the owner of the Eel, the famous grey pacing stallion that has electrified thousands by his phenomenal speed and racing qualities, is very much annoyed that the different associations that are promoting races for trotters and pacers in Canada this winter have seen fit to bar his horse. Mr. Entricken says that when this is done it certainly has a tendency to destroy his interest in the sport for it is such a difficult matter to get hold of a horse of the Eel's calibre and when one is obtained to have him barred in his own country does not seem fair.

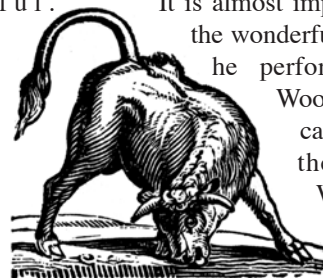
December 8, 1910 Tavistock Gazette

School Concert

The pupils of the public school are busy these days preparing for their concert which they intend holding on the evening of Tuesday, 20th inst. The programme will consist of Reading, Recitations, Dialogues, Vocal and Instrumental Music and Fancy Drills and promises to be most interesting and enjoyable.

Big Show At The Opera House

The Mysto Comedy Co., are playing at the Opera House all this week. Their entertainments are away above the average and are drawing big crowds nightly. Prof. Mysto is the best conjurer ever seen outside of big cities. His work is wonderful.



It is almost impossible to describe the wonderful feats of conjuring he performs. The musical Wood's family are musical artists of a class by themselves. Mr.

Wood's banjo juggling is marvellous. Mr. Jas. Fairbank in his singing and

dancing is winning the favor of all. The show is one of the best ever seen here and should be well patronized. The price of admission is only 10 cents.

December 15, 1910 Tavistock Gazette

New Directory

A new Telephone directory has just been issued and distributed. By looking over it you notice that the Gazette is No. 26. Please bear this in mind and when you have an item of news, just ring up "26".

Oysters

Mr. Fred Eckstein, whose child was winner of the recent Baby Contest, is giving an oyster supper to his numerous supporters at the Arlington Hotel on Friday night. Supporters of either side are cordially invited to attend.

Evangelical Entertainment

The annual Christmas entertainment of the Evangelical Sabbath School, Tavistock, will be held on Monday evening, Dec 20. A splendid programme is being prepared. "Shiloh" will be a special feature of it. You will enjoy it.

December 22, 1910 Tavistock Gazette

TAVISTOCK FALL FAIR

Many would say that the very best time of the year in Tavistock is the weekend of the Tavistock Fall Fair. We would agree. Early in 2009 we asked people to bring in farm-related pictures which we scanned for our collection and returned. There were scenes of butchering day and threshing in the field and feeding the chickens and so much more. Then we went to the “local experts” and had them tell us stories from days long gone. We learned everything from how to stook corn to what food was served up by the farm wives on threshing day. We even heard about a few hijinks ... like when the children would tie a newly-severed pig tail on to the back apron strings of the unsuspecting butcher. We matched up the pictures and the stories and this became our display at the Fall Fair. As you might expect, it generated even more stories!!! This is good. All of what we learned and wrote about is an integral part of our local culture and we all need to ensure it is captured and recorded and available for the next generations to enjoy.



THE KIDS IN QUEHL'S ATRIUM

Rave reviews are pouring in about our new display at Quehl's. The atrium is filled top to bottom with children's pictures from the Lemp Studio Collection. Some, like the happy little baby in the collapsible bathtub, just make you giggle. The handsome young boy on crutches causes you to question about what appears to be his wooden leg. The girl with skates and a hockey stick reminds us that Tavistock has been a hockey town for generations. And a few, given the style of clothing worn in the picture, make you wonder if the children were modelling for a special photo shoot or perhaps a catalogue. We know the names of only a very few of the children. We're hoping you might tell us the names of a few more.

TAVISTOCK ARTISTS

Talent comes in all shapes and sizes as evidenced by the artwork currently on exhibit at the museum. The largest by far is a “new to us” oil painting by Reg Selfe called “Cottage By The Sea” on loan from its owner in Ingersoll. The smallest is a sketch of Bill Matthies done by his daughter, Bonnie. Looking around the display you'll find landscapes rich with colour, bright bouquets of flowers, exquisitely detailed pen and ink drawings, portraits of local individuals and much more. Some are traditional and some have a thoroughly modern dimension. At last count 17 local artists are featured. Plan on paying a visit to our local art gallery. The display runs until the end of January.