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(MAGAZINE AND EDITORIAL SECTION.)

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(PAGES NINE TO TWELVE)

The Old Van Horne Homestead

Planet Representative Pays an Interesting Visit to the Well-Known Harwich Landmark—Many Relics of Auld Lang Syne.

There are many landmarks in Kent County and many ties that bind us to the past, but of all the old landmarks in Kent County there is none more closely associated with the past of this district than the old VanHorn homestead on the river bank in Harwich. The house, which is one of the oldest brick houses in the County, stands nearly opposite the Centre Line five miles from the city. It was considered a mansion when it was built and people came from all around to see it. There was only one other brick house in those days east of Chatham and that was the Wessmore house, which now stands deserted on the river bank on the Charteris farm in Chatham Township. This monument of the past is best known as the residence at a later period of Capt. Keating.

The VanHorn homestead was built in 1844 and is a convenient and modern house in many respects yet. The heavy oak beams that show in the ceiling, the old fire place and the close press built in the wall all attest to its age and makes it dear to the heart of those who love the ancient.

The house was built by David Van Horn, father of John VanHorn, who still lives in the building. He came to Canada in 1825 from New Jersey and settled on the farm on which the homestead now stands. He first built a log house on the bank of the river east of the present building in 1826; 18 years later he erected the VanHorn homestead. The VanHorn family is one of the oldest in the States. They settled in the Dutch colony of New Amsterdam, Jan Cornelius VanHorn was the ancestor of the VanHorn family of New York and New Jersey. He became a member of the first Dutch reformed church of New Amsterdam October 6, 1685. He had a son Cornelius and that name was a favorite in the family. Daniel VanHorn's father was named Cornelius. He was a New Jersey VanHorn and coming to Chatham married. He married Miss Screws, who father lived up the Creek, and they settled on lot 13, Front concession, Harwich. Daniel VanHorn survived his wife many years and passed away at a ripe old age, leaving one son, John VanHorn. John VanHorn, the subject of this sketch, is now 70 years of age and a remarkable man for his years. He is still able to do a hearty day's work and has many of the characteristics of his Dutch ancestors. He is a quiet, easy talking man, of more than ordinary intelligence and always a gentleman.

At present there are four generations of VanHorns living under the same roof in the old homestead—John, the great-grandfather, now 70 years of age; his son Daniel, now a grandfather; Albert Ernest, the grandson, and Earl Lester, aged a few months, only representative of the generation. A peculiar feature of

the family is that they are all left-handed, and the baby gives promise of having the family trait. The great-grandfather, however, used either hand with ease. When the founder of the Canadian branch of this house came to Canada, he brought some of the first paper money used in the colonies and also some of the first used in the States. John VanHorn had \$25 of this money but now he only has three bills left—a nine pence bill issued in 1772, a dollar bill issued in 1775 and a four dollar bill issued in 1777. Mr. VanHorn gave a ten dollar bill to the late Dr. Bright. It was burned in the fire that destroyed Bright's drug store some years ago. The nine pence bill was issued by the General Assembly of Pennsylvania before the rebellion. On the face of it it reads as follows: "According to an act of the General Assembly of Pennsylvania, passed in the year of His Majesty George III., date the third day of April, Anno Domini 1772. Signed, Thomas Fisher. The bill has the British coat of arms on it and is marked nine pence in one corner. The next bill was issued after the revolution. There is written on the face of it, "This bill entitles the bearer to receive one Spanish milled dollar or the value thereof in gold or silver according to a resolution of Congress passed at Philadelphia Nov. 20, 1775. Signed, B. Fuller." The third bill was issued after Congress had moved to Washington. The figure of a ground hog is printed on it. On it is written, "This bill entitles the bearer to receive four Spanish milled dollars or the value thereof in gold or silver according to a resolution of Congress passed in Baltimore, February 26, 1777." There are two signatures to this bill but they are indistinguishable.

John VanHorn married Miss Gamage, of Howard Township, in 1854. She was a sister of E. C. Gamage of this city. Mr. VanHorn has always been interested in fruit and was one of the leading fruit growers of this County. He has never been away from the homestead longer than for about two weeks at a time, except one season he spent in Dresden.

"Many changes have been made in this County in my day," remarked Mr. VanHorn. "As I remember it the River Road was like a given road, no fences, just a trail through the bush, winding and following the river. The concessions were not cut through and there were a few settlers on the Creek Road. I have seen deer creeping around through the woods that almost surrounded our home, only one field being cleared around the house."

There are few representatives left of the old families that used to live along the River road, remarked Mr. VanHorn, as he grew reminiscent, and some of the families have disappeared altogether. The McGreg-

ors have gone and so have the Delmages. Henry Rattle, who lived in the house now owned by Mr. McKerrall has passed away and the name has been forgotten. Jacob Shepley is only a memory. The Traxlers owned about 600 acres, extending from MacIntyre's up to Dan. Bedford's. There are now none of them left.

The McKenzies have all left this neighborhood. William McKenzie, a representative of this family, lives in Chatham. The Neilsons have all left. The Bedfords and Arnolds are still in evidence. The Fields have all departed. The Reids are still represented. The Holmes family are all away. Dr. T. K. Holmes, a member of the family, resides in Chatham.

The River, too, is showing the effects of time. Its course in many places has been changed and the water in it is lower. Large lake vessels used to come past here on their way to Louisville. Now we see them no more. Any vessel drawing 10 feet of water could come up in the old days; now boats drawing four feet experience difficulties. I

have seen large vessels loading grain at Louisville; now the land is under cultivation where the vessels used to tie up, and the river bed is from 10 to 15 rods away.

The Traxler school, where I went when a boy, is only a memory, and James McMullen is the only one of my old schoolmates now living, as far as I can remember. Mr. Perry was one of the first teachers, Mr. Sinclair and Mr. McColl followed him.

Chatham, too, has changed. I remember hearing the late Rufus Stephenson speaking from the balcony of the old Royal Exchange after his first election, in which he announced that Kent had been redeemed.

Mr. VanHorn is still enjoying life, but is too active a man, even at his years, to remain idle. He has a large vineyard which he cultivates and cares for. The frost this year, however, came a little early and he lost most of his crop, but he doesn't complain. He isn't built on that plan.

The Meister Glee Singers Monday Night

Chatham is to be honored by a visit from this celebrated English four on Monday. These gentlemen have been singing together for the past twelve years, and it is well known among musicians that time, coupled with unremitting energy, will alone bring about a state of perfection in the divine art; there-

It may be stated, without any exaggeration, that the Canadian public have never yet heard anything in the art of singing equal to the beautiful work and blending of the voices of the Meister Singers.

Mr. William Sexton, the alto, is Vicar Choral of Westminster Abbey and visiting music master of sever-



England's Famous Male Quartette.—The Meister Singers Touring the Empire — Opera House, Monday Ev'g, Dec. 5.

fore it remains to be seen that under these circumstances citizens who attend the Opera House next Monday will not be disappointed in the Meister Singers.

They have been received with the utmost enthusiasm and have been recalled so many times by the Canadian audiences who have heard them that it has been felt that it would be overworking the talented singers to ask for second responses.

Charmed and delighted is the verdict from the papers of the Canadian cities in which they have already appeared.

The quartette have sung virtually at every important concert in Great Britain, including the tour of Patti and the festivals of Liverpool Philharmonic, and also have been engaged by Madame Nordica, Mikita and others. It is due to them that the lost art of glee singing has been revived in Great Britain. Their repertoire includes specimens of old English classical glee, quartettes, both grave and humorous folk songs, plantation melodies with imitation banjo accompaniments. They have had the honor of being called to sing before Her Majesty the late Queen Victoria, His Majesty the King and other members of the royal family.

al high class schools in London.

Mr. Ager Grover, the tenor, has held such appointments as soloist in St. Margaret's, London, and St. Andrew's, Well. St. London, so well known in England for the beauty of the musical service.

Mr. Waltham, basso, has taken gold, bronze and silver medals for singing in the Royal Academy of Music, London, and toured as soloist with Patti.

Mr. Cunningham, baritone, was musically educated by Edwin H. Le mare, the well known organist and conductor, now at Pittsburg, U. S. A.

Mr. Roland Henry, in humorous musical sketches, has given over 1,200 performances, and is the best English entertainer of to-day.

Miss Ethel Henry, the elocutionist, of London, England, is an elocutionist of the highest order and is admired for her personal beauty and charming, queenly stage presence.

It is to be hoped that this magnificent array of English talent will receive a hearty welcome from Chatham theatre-goers on Monday evening, as the Meister Singers Male Quartette may be looked upon as entertainers of the first order.

LIFE IN A RUSSIAN VILLAGE.

As a rule, a Russian village is a forlorn looking place, where the huts of the poor are made of birch fogs, with upright oak or pine supports, ceiling of strips of the same birch and walls lined with crude branches. In these huts there are only two rooms, one of which is not for every day use, but is kept for best occasions. This room houses those sacred images so dear to the heart of every member of the Greek Church, to which belong the great mass of the Russian people.

The other room serves the purpose of both kitchen and sleeping room, as one of the principal ideas of comfort to these people, ice and snow-bound for so many months of the year, is warmth. In many of the peasant huts no beds are used, and the top of a great stove, reaching nearly to the roof, is a much sought sleeping place. Although the conditions make dirt and accompanying results inseparable in the life of these peasants, they are devotedly fond of bathing. The vapor path in a crude form may be called a national institution, and a not unusual picture of a summer afternoon is the village pond filled with women and children bathing.

It is not what we are, but what we ought to be that should stimulate our endeavor.

A NOVEL USE FOR THE AUTOMOBILE.

The New York Juvenile Asylum, which now is located in the Borough of Manhattan, will soon move to a site on the Hudson River, near Dobb's Ferry, where a change will be made in the manner of housing the children in its care. They will be placed in "homes" where a group of about twenty children will constitute a "family," and as the inmates of the asylum are very numerous, there will necessarily be several of these homes. The cooking will be done in one kitchen, and it has been decided by the management that in order that the delivery of food to the different homes shall be done with as little delay and as economically as possible, an automobile shall be made use of. Before coming to a final conclusion in this matter the opinions of a number of builders of automobiles were sought, and all regarded the scheme as not only feasible but desirable for the purpose. A special vehicle will be built for the work and will be heated in some manner so that the food will be delivered hot. While the general plan has been decided upon the details remain to be worked out, and several designers and builders of automobiles are considering the matter and will submit plans for this novel vehicle.

Minard's Liniment Cures Colds, etc.

The Days of Auld Lang Syne

Interesting Events of Ye Olden Times Gathered from The Planet's Issues of Half a Century Ago.

From The Planet files from Oct. 31, 1880, to Dec. 3, 1880.

W. H. Nelson is secretary of Wellington Lodge, No. 46.

Charles McCrae, of Raleigh, advertises for a stray cow.

R. Cooper, stationer, advertises the Canadian Almanac for sale.

Alexander Dolsen, of Raleigh, advertises for a stray horse.

A. G. Mess is proprietor of the New York House, groceries, liquors, etc.

John Cantwell, of Harwich, advertises a large quantity of corn for sale.

The Kent Marble and Slate Works is managed by M. C. Moe, near the market.

A young man in Tounton, W. S., last week ran a mile in three minutes and 40 seconds.

It is estimated that at least 30,000 tourists have visited Niagara Falls during the past season.

A sneak thief steals a gold watch and other articles from Robert Willmore, a Dover farmer.

Lord Palmerston, the present Prime Minister of England, has just finished his seventy-sixth term.

The Municipal Council of the Township of Chatham met at Regan's Inn. Richard Houston was the Clerk.

Birth—in the Township of Harwich, on the 12th inst., the wife of Mr. Thomas H. Baxter, of a son.

The census taken in New Milford, Ct. found two old maids each two years younger than they were ten years ago.

Married, at Chatham, on the 6th inst., by the Rev. W. Walker, John Stewart Lorimer, Windsor, to Ann King, Chatham.

Teacher wanted for School Section No. 3, Harwich, apply to John Morrow, Israel Tompkins and David Barker, trustees.

Sir Allen Napier McNabb was elected in 1860 to a seat in the Legislative Council as representative for the Western Division.

A mode of churning in Fayal, one of the Azores, is to tie the cream up in a goat skin and kick it about till the butter comes.

Died, at Chatham, the 28th, at half past one, of scarlet fever, Matthew Alexander Grant, eldest son of Miles and Agnes Miller, age eight years.

Died, suddenly, in the Township of Chatham, at his residence, lot No. 11, 5th concession, Malcolm McKerrall, aged 70 years and two months.

Died, at Chatham, on Saturday evening, the 10th inst., at nine o'clock, of scarlet fever, Mary Agnes, aged two years, youngest child of Myles and Agnes Miller.

To let, a comfortable cottage opposite the Grammar School, with a quarter of an acre of land attached. There is a good well on the premises. Apply to Francis Martin.

St. Andrew's Day was celebrated in Chatham. A dinner was held in McKerrall's Hotel. W. McKerrall was the president of the society and Angus McSwen is secretary.

A man took off his coat to show a terrible wound he had received a few years ago. Not being able to find the wound, suddenly remembered that it was his "brother Bill's" arm.

Wanted, a teacher, male or female, holding a Normal school certificate (that is valid) for School Section No. 13, Shrewsbury, Rond Eau, apply immediately. Alex. Cameron, Jas. Simpson, H. Williamson, trustees.

Married, on the 16th inst., at the residence of the bride's mother, by the Rev. Herman Fitch, Mr. James Birch to Ann Jane, eldest daughter of the late James Muckle, Esq., both of Harwich.

Excelsior Fire Company No. 1 gave a cotillion party in the Eberts Hall on Nov. 28th. The committee of management was W. L. Wilson, J. W. Lewis, R. Barclay, Thos. McPaul, Jas. B. Graham, S. M. Smith, and Wm. F. Martin.

Mr. A. B. McIntosh, grocer, has removed from his old stand and to his new brick store, opposite Dr. Cross' Drug Store. This stand is a great improvement on the one formerly occupied, and when Mr. McIntosh has received his full assortment he will have one of the finest stores in town.

The negro suffrage amendment to the New York constitution seems to have been overwhelmingly defeated. In New York City, while 33,000 votes were given to Lincoln, the amendment only got 1,640. Indeed the amendment got less votes than it did three years ago.

Capt. Trav's, the noted marksman, in order to test the truth of the assertion that the hide of a rhinoceros will resist a bullet shot at a specimen of this pachyderm on exhibition at Dan Rice's great show in

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is a beautiful coat for evening wear, the foundation of white tulle has a wide border effect is created by means of a portion of the being outlined in jet sequins. The body portion is blocked out in lines by the same means. On collar, sleeves and down the front, wide chiffon and tulle fall in wavy profusion, while the bottom is finished by ailing of tulle.



It is considered quite the correct thing nowadays to wear a dark separate coat with a skirt of any material or color. Fine black cloth, however, is the approved fabric for the coat. The design has trimmings of white cloth stitched with black braid. The wrist bag carried is one of the new ties of the season, being made of sapphire blue beads with a dainty design done in gold beads.