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"Never a Day So Bright" by Kate Aitken (c)1956

[Kate Scott became Mrs. Aitken in 1917 when she married her childhood sweetheart, Henry M. Aitken. She organized a successful home canning business, had a 4 year assignment as a lecturer for the Ontario Dept of Agriculture, president of the first county organization of the Women's Institute, attended a world wheat conference as Canadian representative, functioned as Women's Director of the Canadian National Exhibition for 14 years, and served as Women's Editor of the Montreal Standard from 1941 to 1951. But she is best known as a radio personality whose highly popular broadcasts were heard twice daily throughout the week.]

Robert and Ann Scott (Methodist) parents of Kate

Sir William Osler (one of the world's greatest medical people, born in Bond Head, Ontario

Sir Frederick Banting (co-discoverer of insulin) born near Beeton (Knighthood for his contribution to medicine) [Banting Memorial High School in Alliston named after him]

Went to Fergus for a shopping spree

Guelph to Beeton 114 miles (2 day journey by train)

Train ran from Guelph - Toronto - Bradford, then sleigh to Beeton (12 miles)

GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY (Beeton Junction)

Cookstown 13 miles

25 cents for shirts, nightgowns (no such thing as pyjamas)

located between the beds was the washstand with basin and pitcher of soft water, soap dish and clean towels.

Military balls held in Cookstown by Major Cook

Queen's Hotel - Main Street, Beeton (house faced the street directly opposite the Queen's [demolished in 1985??])

Adjala Township and swamp district north of the village

Riddell farm lay back of our property (James Riddell (Scotsman))

Mrs Haines (English - neighbour)

Cow Brand soda

G.E. Reynold's Store

Scott's Store

(supplies from the millinery in Toronto (48 miles away))

D.W. Watson (Dan) auctioneer, builder, town constable, truant officer, part-time farmer, ran local rink

Nearest railway station was Bradford (12 miles away)

Tottenham (5 miles away)

Miss. Gillespie worked in Scott's store making hats

Butter - received from the farmers - then mixed up to make a more even taste took out the strong taste of turnip or clover 12 - 13 cents per pound  
took to Toronto's Front Street to sell  
the toughest buyer was Joe Flavelle (Sir Joseph Flavelle and later became President of Robert Simpson Co.)

County House (built for seniors of Simcoe County) now happily named Simcoe Manor (addition added in late 1970's?) - superintendent Dr. McKelvey  
first stone was laid by Colonel Richard Tyrwhitt, MP in 1898 rep of the Fed House set in 400 acres of farmland

Father (Scott) reeve of village

Main Street - Pringle's, Reynold's, Scott's stores  
W.J. Bell - hardware merchant

Nichol family (George Soulis' mother and siblings 11 in all)

Centre Street

Mr. Nichol shared ministry of Beeton and Tottenham  
Beeton in afternoon, Tottenham morning and evening  
church bell rang to call to church

Smarts, Jones, McPhersons, Semple, Martins, MacDonalds, Bells, Crystal, Richardson, Deadman, Fenton, Smith

Newton Robinson

Dr. W.C. Law lived midway on Centre Street, he was the medical doctor and the dentist

Rev. Dreyer - clergy of the Anglican Church

1885 - 51 children died in Simcoe County of diphtheria (nineteen in Beeton area alone)  
Hammills lost 4; Angus's lost 1  
Bruce (eldest) got it but was nursed back to health

fire destroyed village

typhoid every spring - figured if there was a better water system then they could have been rid of typhoid - lived in a valley - pure springs in the hills above - seepage from the hills and no adequate drainage meant contamination of the wells

Father Scott went to Ottawa to see Charles Tupper (Prime Minister of Canada) and had an interview with him. (he had received a letter, in the past, from Sir. John A. MacDonald) they received a water system, coffer dam, reservoir and running water with shiny brass taps (in the homes that could afford it)

Mitchells lived on the 7th line

D.A. Jones took to raising bees - town changed name from Clarksville to Beeton to honour him. Bees were brought from the holy land - he was a world traveller - they loved wild white clover - planted it and would plough it under for fertilizer

Mechanic's library/Library board - Popular Mechanics showed how to retape lines of electrical supply when father cut lines to bedrooms. (kids were staying up to all hours with the lights on to read magazine so father had the line cut but the kids figured out how to fix it.)

Towne cinema - Stardust

Main Street:

- 3 general stores
- 2 blacksmiths shops
- 1 bakeshop
- 1 drugstore
- 1 harness shop
- 1 post office
- ? miscellaneous shops

Centre Street - 1 concession to another (residential street)  
houses built of red brick with verandas with gingerbread

The Beeton World (local paper)

3 churches - Presbyterian (top of Main Street)  
Anglican ("")  
Methodist (half way down Centre Street)

veterinary - Dr. Nichol

Train - arrived twice daily at the junction point

Station hotel - run by Mr. & Mrs. Lusty

Amateur play would cost 50 cents for admission

Purchased a organ for the parlour, strictly trade and barter, since Father took a secondhand organ on a store debt. Organ was outmoded, since everyone in the village who could afford a piano traded off the family organ for an ugly upright, usually done in black with inserts of silk on each side of the keyboard.

Music teacher came from Alliston twice a week (Wednesday and Thursday), a Miss Kelly. A piano was purchased from the board money that Miss Kelly paid for the parlour, as many more children were being taught.

The men really ruled the roost, no women on the school boards, lawyers, doctors or in business. They were strictly to marry early, as advantageously as possible, and bear a large family (preferably boys for farm work), run an economically sound home and create a happy atmosphere. If they were farm wives, money was from butter-and-eggs, from which food and clothing was provided. Social activities were church affairs, tea-parties and the occasional dance. The men's activities were a different story.

Masonic parlours open to the women one night of the year, for a community supper. Mrs. Thompson, head of the committee. The Orange Order celebrated the 12th of July with pomp. The Orange Lodge, situated midway down Centre Street. Visitors came from Mount Ararat, Cookstown, Tottenham and Schomberg.

Mrs. Cross, originator of coloured icing on a cake, (no food colouring in those days).

The Weatherups had the biggest and best strawberries. The Laws had almost the only cultivated raspberry rows in the village.

Mr. Treadgold sold and repaired sewing-machines, organs and pianos.

The cure-all was a liquid made up of granulated sugar, water, a dash of Epsom salts, and tincture of sweet nitre called "Universal Panacea".

World War II, Manchester was bombed, a whole street packed solid with houses were flattened. Dozens of youngsters were sent to Canada to this community. Then in October 1899 the Boer War broke out in England, the government decided to raise a contingent of one thousand men to go to the aid of the Mother country. Recruiting went on all during the summer of 1900. G.T. Summers, wealthiest townsmen, urged the local boys to enlist in the Canadian Militia for the defence of Britain. Milton Kearns volunteered from our community, he died near the end of the South African War. News came through "The Toronto World", reported by Winston Churchill (a young reporter).

Summer of 1900 family went camping at a rented property at Jackson's Point (38 miles away, an all day journey), slept in tents.

Eggs, 11 cents for fresh eggs per dozen, 8 cents for half-fresh eggs per dozen.

No street lights, or electric lights just coal-oil lamps. No parking meters just hitching posts down Main Street.

Stewart's Ice Cream Parlour, a dish for 5 cents (more like a frozen custard than fluffy homogenized featherweight mixture).

One hundred and fifty years ago the French devised a game played with were hoops, wooden balls and mallets, called croquet. Designed for a mixed gathering, both male and female, extremely popular in France cross the Channel to England and then across the Atlantic. W.J. Bell (hardware merchant) couldn't keep enough sets in the store to keep up with the demand. The men found it easier to play in the garments that they wore, therefore the women ended up watching. Due to the locality at the foot of the hill, croquet lawns were smooth as velvet and springy as good turf could make them. The game began the third week in May straight through the summer. Tottenham, Schomberg and Alliston eventually put together teams to play against Beeton. A tournament was set

up to celebrate the 1st of July.  
FALL

Dan O'Leary, Adjala farmer, took his Poland China pigs to Toronto Fair and always brought back a red ribbon plus the prize money. (\$9.00 received, cost \$20 to go there and back, ribbons were mounted under glass and hanging in the O'Leary Parlour)

Dominion of Canada

Mother Scott worked all winter, every night perfecting pieces of domestic art for the Toronto Fair (Battenburg lace, Haranger embroidery, darning on net, nightgown (flannel, handmade), tea-cosy). The entry date was August 6th, prize for all five items was only \$15 (\$1500 wouldn't sufficiently pay for the work put into them). Mother and Katie were taken to opening day by Mr. O'Leary on the Grand Trunk Railway. There was never enough seats for everyone, but in true tradition, the women and children sat while the men stood swaying in the aisle. Train stopped at the Dufferin Street gates, to let people off to go through the turnstiles. The Women's building was where the event was for the crafts, it was run by the wives of the Directors of the Fair. Mother won red ribbons for the battenburg lace and the haranger embroidery, the darned-net apron won a third, the tea-cosy and nightgown weren't shown. The prize money was \$7.00, supper was only 50 cents. Grand opening was by Sir Oliver Mowat, then the Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario.

Mrs. Margaret Sproule (Aunt).

School was an old-fashioned four-roomed brick building, reminiscent of a prison with its narrow windows set high in the solid walls. The yard was surrounded by a high board fence. Inside the yard was the school pump with dipper for which they drank. Girls entered at the south and boys at the north. Principle McPherson. On the ground floor were two rooms for the juniors and on the floor above housed the rest of the public school. There were two outhouses located outside, boys and girls. School started at 8:45 a.m. (first bell) expected (1st grade) to be in place. Miss Lennox, a born teacher. In one room there would be many grades situated from the youngest in the front to the older in the back.

Inspector Reverend Thomas McKee, a retired minister who lived in the county of Barrie and covered his whole inspectorate on foot. He decided himself which family he would stay overnight and who would feed him or both. He would sit at the front in the teacher's chair on the platform for a good half day in each room, taking a lesson with the class. Lesson: Simcoe County (named after Governor Simcoe), the townships were mostly taken from Lady Simcoe's lap dogs (Tiny, Tay, Floss, Medonte, North Orillia, South Orillia,...). Mr. McKee left Barrie Monday morning and returned home Friday night, no one could possibly guess at the mileage that he covered.

May our village bloomed from one end to the other with rose peonies, lilac in farm fence corners; June roses bloomed (yellow, pink, red and pure white), hedges of sweet peas blossomed all summer. Mid-September, chili sauce, governor sauce, catsup, mustard pickle (pickled in crocks). [Governor sauce: outsized green tomatoes, cut in paper-thin slices, simmered in spiced vinegar until the syrup was thick and the slices transparent.] [Chili sauce: tomatoes, red & green peppers, onions (jar rings in the bottom of the pot to prevent burning). Apples, Father Spies/Tolman Sweets or Russets for 50 cents per barrel. First week of October was the time for going to the orchard for picking to fill the barrels [apple sauce, baked apples, apple turnovers and apple pies].

The Russets, baked in their skins, cored and filled with a mixture of raisins, brown sugar and cinnamon, then baked until the skins shrivelled the juices ran. Chilled and served with a pitcherful of rich yellow cream.

The Tolman Sweets were strictly for eating.

All through the Spring and Summer payment was not demanded, but as soon as the harvest was in then came the big squeeze. Father's Radway Bank was soon empty of its bills. Then the books were gone over and Father headed out to collect on his due accounts. With livery horse and Katie (to open the gates) they spent days going around the county. Sometimes money was received, but almost always something was received in the way of a bag of potatoes, a basket of late pears, a home-cured ham, eggs. The odd dog was certainly not one to turn your back on. We lived in a country of hills and valleys, hardwood bushes, evergreen trees, harvested fields brilliant with yellow stubble, turnips & sugar-beets. Adjala township was main Roman Catholic, father was a staunch Presbyterian. St. James Church in Colgan, candles were burned in memory of Robert Scott, General Merchant.

Religion part of life, as was their daily food. Cousins, the Ramsey's. Methodist population as well. Crokinole (tournaments) parties, consisting of 12 to 15 tables. Each round started and finished with the ringing of a gong timed from the head-table. Four players per board. Lunch with coffee was served, while scores were tallied, prizes were awarded.

October 6, Fall Fair day (Beeton Fall Fair - always held during the first week in October). Only hardwood was put in the stove to do the baking. The day before the fair, at school, entrance (free) slips were given to the children. 5 cents admission. McMurtrie (a bricklayer) operated the merry-go-round. New paint job every year. It went around slowly when the girls were on but when the boys got on the speed was turned up as they held on tight, trying to stand upright in the stirrups. These rides were given the day before the Fair began, just after the merry-go-round was put up. The day of the fair, breakfast was had, then chores were done a before being able to go to the fair. Egg-cup cakes won the prize of 75 cents; lemon pie a red ribbon. Mrs Fenton first prize for her bread and buns, etc. A feast for dinner (lunch), with the best linen, leftovers from dinner was for supper. Talent arrived for the occasion and stayed at the Queen's Hotel (directly opposite our house and store).

Thanksgiving, a Thursday during the first week of October, the stoves were fired up laying out of commission since Easter Sunday. They had to be put back in place, which was quite a chore. Canada's first Thanksgiving was celebrated on October 4th, 1834 (a day of thanksgiving because the plague of cholera had abated).

James Riddell, opposed to the purchase of a church organ, Father (as leader of the choir) was to persuade him.

Bruce (eldest brother) finished school then went to Toronto to complete his education and take his teacher's training. He graduated and was appointed a teacher at Hammell's School near home. Teaching didn't last long, when he was stricken with rheumatic fever and bedridden for months. He was moved to the first floor parlour to make it easier on Mother. He soon learned how to darn stockings, peel vegetables and even learned to knit and other household chores. Also helped the young ones with homework and told stories. Towards spring he was able to get out of bed and walk slowly around the house, after Easter he was well enough to go back to his school, and then gone was the story hour, etc. By summertime he was completely recovered. After Bruce had told stories of the Plains of Abraham and the Hudson's Bay Company when Kate visited and read the story it was like meeting an old friend.

Valentine's Day and Halloween

Hallowe'en - overturn outhouses and tow them to the centre of the village square,

piled one on top of the other.

Doc Livingstone, retired farmer (bachelor).

Soaping windows was another favourite pastime, but the Pringle's were prepared. Mrs. Pringle sat with a bucket full of water in an upstairs window and when enough boys were at the window below she let the water go. How the boys explained their soaking wet clothes, remained a secret.

All the kids dressed up, donning false faces and putting on parents' clothes and shoes on, parading up and down the streets knocking on doors rushing in and out hoping to terrify the townspeople. And they went right along with the act, screaming, trying to chase us out, banging the doors after us.

Charlie Andrews was successful in scaring the children.

The village square was situated at the junction of Main and Centre streets.

An Indian family came to the village with two bears doing tricks, they were fed by our family, that night the little girl (fourteen) was fed again. Then when father went looking for her parents he realized that they had left town leaving Sarah with us. They realized after her bathing that her head was infested with vermin, after cutting the girl's hair all off coal-oil was applied. This treatment and plucking of the vermin went on for many a night until they were gone. She was not the daughter of the couple who had come to town, but had been taken in by them and lived with them in different villages for the past 4 years. She remained with us for many years. Not attending school it was Bruce's task to teach her to read and write which she picked up very quickly. She loved to sing and sang like a bird in a tree. When Sarah was sixteen the Salvation Army established a small citadel in our village which she took as a cat takes to cream. She became a full member and every night would don her uniform and go to the citadel. When she turned eighteen a visiting official from Toronto and took to her singing. She was taken away and her voice trained. She travelled to England and became one of the popular favourites at the SA rallies.

Sarah never forgot mother and every Christmas a gift would arrive handmade by her, sometimes addressed from Toronto or India or England, a pair of beaded moccasins, etc.

Sports - summer it was baseball, winter it was ice shinny. Teams were from the towns close by, Tottenham, Colgan, Beeton, Schomberg, Cookstown. In the winter Bemrose's pond was the site, managed by Dan Watson.

Teams:

Colgan lineup; 5 Keoughs, 2 O'Learys, 2 Ronans, 2 Morrows (Maple Leaf Hotel, Tottenham)

Beeton lineup; Gub Martin, Frank Chapin, Art McDonald, Walter Pringle and 5 Scott boys.

Commercial hotel - supper

McPherson, Duncan, Wright, Jones, MacDonald, Scott, wife's all drove to Alliston to have their picture taken by McGinty. A double democrat, driven by Dan Watson too the six ladies to Alliston.

Lyman Jones, senator (brother of the famous beekeeper)

Mrs. Mitchell

Perfume - Lily of the Valley, Wood Violet, Florida Toilet Water

## THE BEETON WORLD

first copy rolled off the presses in 1883, served all of Simcoe County. Copy was sent from Alliston, Cookstown, Barrie, Newton Robinson, Thompsonville, Lloydtown and many other small communities. Alliston and Barrie did have their own local papers but this didn't prevent our editor from scooping them on local news.

Still wet from the press the paper was available on Thursday afternoon. Father would get a paper and immediately read the ads of the competition (Reynolds and Pringle). By the time us kids got the paper Mother had cut out the spicier items.

Published in the Beeton World:

"Jas. Coulter will be tried at his Hotel on Saturday March 30th on a charge of selling during prohibition hours."

"Elizabeth Manzer, of Belle Ewart, became a mother, the illegitimate child is the child of George Ferrier. He has been brought to the Magistrates Bird and Laird at the Police Court, refusing to provide the necessities of life to the newborn babe."

Dr. Talmadge, of Thompsonville.

"Thos. Donnelly went to jail in Barrie for assaulting Mr. Hurst. He was given the option of paying \$19.50 or 30 days in jail." "Thos. Donnelly tried to break jail at Barrie, in consequence will chew Gov't gum in the Central until September 1st".

etc.

Mrs. W.W. Ellis, Queen's Hotel, Beeton

Forsythe, Cookstown Pumpman

Dr. R.S. Cheffy, M.D.

"For beating his wife, John Payne of Collingwood, was fined \$1.00 and costs or sixty days. He took the sixty days."

"For stealing an overcoat from the Victoria Hotel, Barrie, Willaim Smith got six months in the Central."

"August 13, 1885 - the telephone wire-men arrived in town Saturday noon and now Beeton is on speaking terms with Toronto, Newmarket, Barrie, Bradford and a hundred other places."

"Equal Rights Association was formed with R.J. Todd President and W.J. Bell as Secretary - held at the Methodist church."