

Advance Publicity for “Timothy Eaton and His Department Store”

Timothy Eaton was a canny Scots-Irish Methodist who believed that the Lord would reward those who worked hard. Born in Ballymena, Ireland, Eaton served an apprenticeship with a local merchant before immigrating to Canada in the 1850s. He honed his craft in small-town Ontario then, starting in 1869, his tiny shop at Queen and Yonge would expand exponentially, leaving all his Toronto competitors in the dust. This presentation tells the story of Timothy Eaton’s life, what he did that made him so successful and how the subsequent generations of the Eaton family succeeded –and ultimately failed – in keeping the Eaton legacy alive in the 20th Century.

Richard Jordan is a former President of the Etobicoke Historical Society and a former **Toronto Star** local history columnist. His feature articles on historical subjects have also appeared in the **Saturday Star** and the **Sunday Star**.

Timothy Eaton’s first Toronto store was this tiny shop on the southwest corner of Queen and Yonge. Less than 15 years later he would buy and demolish a large building just north of Queen Street to build his first iconic store. His business would expand exponentially, right across Canada, leaving all his Toronto competitors, including the rival Simpson’s department store, in the dust.

