



When lumbering was Lindsay's main industry. Half a century ago, Lindsay had a dozen active saw mills, cooperage factories, barrel head and stave mills. One of the largest mills was that known as the Parkin mill, operated by Sam. Parkin, Sr., later by his son Sam Parkin. The first Parkin mill was at the foot of Colborne Street and the second mill on the east side of the Scugog river. Here is pictured a number of the mill hands including: George Woods, C. Norton, Dave Campbell, George Walker, O. Noke, George Powles, Alex Moore, Wm. Walker, Dan Hogan, Ned Charvet, John Charvet, W. O'Keefe, Hollett, Alf Purvis, Jack Burton, Jack Hand, Alf Parkin, Henry Campbell, Rod Mahood, Ben Heaslip, Dave Walker, Bud Tweedie, H. Dock, Jack Wilson and F. Larnier.

Henry "Nipper" Campbell, 2 Bond Street East, who is in his 86th year is as "sharp as a tack" and as "spry as a cricket". The writer of Main Street found he had a most retentive memory.

"A tremendous change has taken place in Lindsay over the past 50 years", said Mr. Campbell, "Deep muddy streets, two board sidewalks, gas lights, horses, cows and pigs have vanished and today we have everything modern and streamlined".

"Nipper" Campbell is a son of Angus Campbell and many people know his brother Dave Campbell. He was born on a farm near Lindsay but lived all his life in Lindsay except for the years spent in the lumber camps and a period of years in Toronto. "I liked the city, but was glad to get back

to Lindsay".

Lindsay was a lumbering town. "The biggest industry was lumbering, both in and around Lindsay and certainly gack north in Haliburton County. "I well remember the days when Lindsay had a flock of sawmills, shingle mills and barrel and stave or hoop mills", recalled Mr. Campbell. He named the following: Sam Parkin's mill located on the west side of the Scugog near the end of Francis and Colborne Streets. There was also a small mill owned by a Mr. McNabb. When the Parkin mill was burned down, John Carew who operated a circular store in the Parkin Mill, bought the old McNabb mill and built a large mill on the Parkin site. Sam Parkin's daughter then ran a saw mill on the east side of the river for a time. Sam Parkin, Jr., built the present box factory, north of the town, now operated by Art Carew.

The Rathburn Lumber Company, from Gananoque ran a mill at the north end of St. Paul street where the Hodgson Chemical plant was located later. A man named Docet had a saw mill off Wellington Street east side of the river. J. P. Ryley ran a mill near the Wellington Street bridge where the Baby Tenda factory was located.

Kennedy had a cooperate factor on Wellington Street near the bridge. Sadler and Needler operated a saw mill east of the old stone mill and later built the stone mill where J. D. Flavelle was owner for many years.

Rider and Kitchener had a mill on the river, south of the old iron bridge on Durham St. There was a stave and barrel head mill at the foot of Ridout Street.

F. H. M. Baker at one time bookkeeper with the Rathburn company, ran the Baker Lumber Company and for a time it was located at the corner of Lindsay and King Streets. A man named Brummell also operated a mill in the East Ward.

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## **Tug boats**

Tug boats were numerous fifty years ago and included the Alice Ethel, named after Alice Sadler and Ethel Needler, the Mary Louise, the Grey Hound, Witchcraft, Water-wheel and others.

Among the well known lumbermen of the day was John Coburn who brought down many a huge boom of logs from Grace Lake and from as far away as the Lake of Bays. It was a common sight to see

lakes, bays and rivers jammed with thousands of logs from shore to shore and the hum of the saw mill could be heard in many places but particularly at Fenelon Falls and Lindsay.

“They were great days for Lindsay, and although the pay was not big, the lumbering industry employed most men and most of them had large families to support”, said Mr. Campbell.

“When the raw lumber season was over, the loggers returned to Lindsay with pockets bulging with money and the lumberjacks spent their money freely. It was a great era for Lindsay and the hum of the saws could be heard day and night. There were many accidents, but this was part of the business”.

“It was a healthy life” said Mr. Campbell, “and that is one reason why I am still here, alive and kicking” he concluded.