

Pottery manufacturing dates back to the beginning of time and apparently was a primitive art in the middle Eastern countries and was mentioned in Biblical history. Pottery manufacturing in a crude beginning thence spread to practically every country in the world, eventually to the British Isles and the Canadian Commonwealth — even to Lindsay.

The word "Confederation" has been on the tongues of millions of Canadians recently and will remain there all through Centennial year 1967.

Senior citizens of Lindsay recall hearing about such old institutions as the Sam Fox Brick and Tile plant and the Curtin brick plant, south of Lindsay on Highway 35 and the Wagstaff Brick and Tile industry on the old Fox farm. These same citizens recall their fathers and mothers talking about the Pottery industry which was located near the south-west corner what is now dubbed "suicide corners" at the crossing of Highways 35 and 7.

Roy Carley, Simcoe Street and Frank Palfrey, Melbourne street remember the family chatter when pottery was made from good blue clay on a piece of ground near where the old Pat. Welsh vacated homestead now stands.

Urns, flower pots, flower pot saucers, mugs, vases and other articles like more delicate dishes were turned out in fairly large quantities. It was a flourishing business but long ago became extinct.

It is interesting to note that Charles Brett, of Lindsay, has been conducting a class of people interested in learning pottery and sculpturing in the Kiwanis Recreational Centre.

Blue clay needed in the manufacturing of pottery was located near the site of the old Pottery Corners. However, it is reported that it was so far under ground that it was ex-

ceedingly brittle and had to be mixed with some other form of material before being turned out in manufactured form.

Blue pottery today is quite popular in some areas of Ontario, especially around Collingwood. One local jeweller, McCarty Jewellers, has been handling Blue Pottery from Collingwood with considerable success for some years past.

The Curtin Brick yards was the first in the Lindsay area and for many years it was operated by a son, the late Jack Curtin, a gentleman who was well known.

The Sam Fox Brick and Tile yards and Kiln goes a long way back and it was at one time a hive of industry. Sam Fox who became the Tory Member of the Provincial House at Toronto, came out from England and some of his ancestors were said to be among the 'blue bloods' in the old Country.

Although the Curtin farm and the farm once occupied by Senator McHugh are believed to have been obtained from the Crown, the Fox farm was apparently bought outright. As time went on Sam Fox had erected some ten or twelve homes for his workmen and the name "Village" was applied to the hamlet. So extensive became operations that brick and tile were shipped from the Fox wharf on the Scugog River (now the Wagstaff Wharf), that scow loads of the finished articles were hauled on big barges to Port Perry, as well as hauled by small steam tugs to Lindsay.

Business was so good that stock piles created in the summer months were reduced by sleigh loads in the winter months when farmers organized 'bees', the neighbours loaning their sleighs and horses and men to a farmer wishing to erect a brick house.

With the passing of Sam Fox the business was purchased by David Wagstaff of the then widely known Wagstaff Brick Company of Toronto and four generations of this fine old family have been associated with the business. The original owner David Wagstaff passed the business on to son Charles Wagstaff and with the death of this gentleman business passed into the ownership of his son Les. Wagstaff who with his charming wife Marg. (Hill) Wagstaff reside on the old homestead. The fourth generation looms to the front in their son David Wagstaff at home.

Besides having brick and tile shipped by boat and by horse power, hundreds of loads

were shipped via Canadian Pacific Railway when a siding from the old Port McNicol-Lindsay and Burketon line was stationed in the brick yards and many a load of Lindsay Wagstaff tile and brick found its way to Port McNicol by railroad, then up the Great Lakes to Fort William and Port Arthur.

It is stated that hundreds of white and red brick homes in Lindsay today were built with brick from the Fox and Curtin kilns. In some cases, especially the very old homes, the walls are made of three rows of solid brick.

Many of Lindsay's finest and most stately homes and business blocks will for many years to come bring back the memories of the Curtin, Fox and Wagstaff brick industry.