

It was some 68 years ago that citizens of Lindsay joined in a tumultuous reception, a welcome to two soldiers back from the Boer War. Sam Hughes and a young soldier named Williams were greeted with loud cheers.

Williams was a book-keeper at the Needler and Flavelle stone grist mill on Kent Street east and Sam Hughes returned as a hero. It is reported that Hughes, the imperialist, travelled to the Transvaal in South Africa on his own and at his own expense, after having been refused an office with the British army.

He had travelled to London, England and demanded and received an audience with Lord Kitchener, Commander of the British forces. Arriving in the African war zone he joined the soldiers in the field and it was not long until his counsel was listened to by Lord Roberts and others and he took his place in working out and planning strategy.

It is reported that his return to Lindsay was a triumphal occasion and he was greeted by Lindsay officials and military officers when he spoke to a throng of people from the old band stand which at the time was located on the park and baseball grounds a few rods north of the present public library.

There are a few residents in the Lindsay area who recall the days of Major Martin, a veteran of the Crimean war, who was the founder of the Victoria Laundry on Russell street. He wore medals

on his chest but is best remembered by old acquaintances when he produced a small canon on days celebrating British victories of war, especially on the anniversary day of the Crimean war. This small canon boomed on many occasions and it is reported that the canon is still in some home in Lindsay.

Years ago the government presented canons to many towns and cities and two field guns at one time, were mounted in front of the Lindsay armoury, another sat on the lawn at the Public Library and another large canon was located at the Court House. These relics were turned over to the military authorities and were apparently reduced to hot metal and used in the wars overseas. Too bad these guns were disposed of as they would be interesting historical relics at this time when old traditions are at times re-enacted and war materials are being sought by historical societies.