

One of the few residents of Lindsay who saw Sir John A. MacDonald in the flesh when he visited Lindsay was the late Sam Howe. He was a mere lad at the time.

This item of news in this Confederation year zoomed through the brain recently when Sam Howe's old and stately beaver or plub hat, was resurrected on a top shelf in a large clothes closet in the former Howe home at 31 Ridout street by the now tenant, Mrs. Pat Gemmill. The stove pipe lid is upwards of 75 years old and was no doubt worn by the late Mr. Howe on many dress up occasions. He was an expert tinsmith, as was his father before him and Sam Howe was born at 31 Ridout Street. The old topper was wrapped up in papers and was found in a beautiful galvanized iron hat box, made by the artistic Sam Howe. It was closed in by a snug fitting lid.

The late Mr. Howe was born in 1867 and was a boy in short pants when Sir John visited Lindsay. The writer well remembers when Mr. Howe proudly related the thrill he received when he heard Sir John speak to a large crowd in front of the present Town Hall. The Confederation Prime Minister stood on a small balcony which protruded from the south side of the upper story of the then old Lindsay Opera House.

By coincidence Mrs. D. G. McLean, the former Evelyn Howe, who now has her Grandfather's plug hat, mentioned to the writer that previous to the school children in her class being dismissed for a half holiday to observe the birthday of Sir John MacDonald, that the class was shown a beautiful gold headed walking cane which was the property of Canada's first Prime Minister 100 years ago. The cane was loaned to Central Senior School by Hon. Leslie M. Frost, once Premier of Ontario.

The cane, which was beautifully inscribed bore the date 1886 when the black walnut stick was presented to Sir John on the occasion of his visit to the Town of Southamp-

ton, Ontario. As Mrs. McLean is a teacher of History she was vitally interested in both the above article, the Beaver topper and the gold headed cane.

"Off the cuff" so to speak, the late Sam Howe used to tell about the day John L. Sullivan, world renowned champion heavy weight boxer passed through Lindsay on the old Grand Trunk in his own private car. Same Howe the boy, was there on the platform.

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Do you remember when the west side of Sussex street between Wellington and Bond Streets was vacant land growing in tall weeds. If you do then you must be around one hundred years old! It was vacant land except for a building near the corner of Wellington and Sussex streets where there stood a small Baptist church. This information came to light on a map of the town bearing the date 1875.

Mentioning Churches, did you know that Edmund Gregory, grandfather of Neill and William Gregory at one time owned all the land fronting on the west side of Cambridge street between Bond and Francis Streets. That the same Edmund Gregory donated the land at the corner of Bond and Cambridge to the then Methodist official Board and thereon today stands the big church known as Cambridge street United Church.

Edmund Gregory was the first Sunday School superintendent in the church and he was responsible for building the

brick home on the south-west corner of Francis and Cambridge and was the family home of the Gregory's.

It is of interest to learn that a student of the Toronto Pharmacy College wrote a thesis concerning the history of the Gregory Drug store pharmaceutical business in Lindsay which dates well over one hundred years.

Edmund Gregory grandfather of Neill and William Gregory came to Canada from the Old Country and one of his first business ventures was in the village of Millbrook.

Later he moved to Lindsay, locating in a frame structure at the corner of Kent and William Streets. When the frame structure was levelled to the

ground in the conflagration of 1851 the business was re-established in the same corner location in what became known as the Knowlson Block.

The Gregory brothers have in their possession many documents and articles which belonged to their grandfather and also to their father the late E. S. Gregory who carried on the drug business for many years, up to the time of his demise.

Today the Gregory drug store business is operated by "Sonny" Gregory, son of E. Neill Gregory.