

From time to time mention has been made of three old time carriage shops in Lindsay, the Sinclair, Hamilton and Kylie shops, which were actually factories turning out the finest in wagons, buggies, cutters and sleighs. In reality there were four of these shops. William Skitch, father of Percy H. Skitch and grandfather of Norman L. Skitch was a pioneer in the industry with a shop at the corner of William and Wellington Streets.

When a lad of six years, William Skitch arrived in Port Hope with his father from England. William Skitch came by his profession naturally as his father was one of six brothers all of whom were Carriage Makers and three Tailors and for many years the Skitch trade name could be seen in Port Hope.

William Skitch was 21 years old when he took up residence

in Lindsay and his first work shop was in a small frame dwelling on William Street, immediately south of the old Methodist Church, which for many a year stood at the corner of Wellington and William. Later on he moved into the old vacated church where he had a work shop and a show room. He was a progressive gentleman, thrifty but by no means miserly as was evidenced when he had the small original work shop demolished and erected the Skitch terrace of five homes which still stands and with every unit being occupied for many years. Still later William Skitch built the large brick home which is now occupied by Mayor John Eakins' Beauty Parlour.

It is interesting to note that when the present United (Methodist) Church was built at the corner of Cambridge and Bond Streets that William Skitch was the presenter, the

leader of the Choir who used the tuning fork. The Skitch family came by their fine singing ability because of parents who were musical.

The old Methodist Church was finally demolished by P. H. Skitch to make way for a fine five - terrace structure, and the small frame parsonage at the rear of the church on Wellington Street also was levelled to the ground to make room for modern brick homes. Incidentally it was discovered that the walls in the old parsonage were of walnut and other hard material and in some cases the walls were about one foot thick.

One or two members of the original Skitch brothers who landed on the shores of Lake Ontario at Port Hope continued to follow the trade of tailors and clothiers and many Lindsay citizens were well acquainted with the Skitch brethren who engaged in a tailor business in Toronto and Vancouver. One of this branch of the Skitch family was laid to rest a week or two ago in Toronto.

Of the present Skitch family, Mr. Percy Skitch, who resides on Sussex Street north and who is at present wintering in Florida, was for many years a soloist in Toronto before settling in Lindsay and was a member of the Mendelshon Choir and at one time the leader of a choir in Toronto. For over thirty years he was a soloist in Cambridge Street United Church. He was for years known widely as the proprietor of a large store and lodge at Thurstonia Park and in his many activities he has been an expert in the game of curling and lawn bowling and in his youthful days was a keen baseball player. His activities also included tennis, shuffleboard and quoits. As a curler he was a member of the Canadian team to visit Scotland.

Percy Skitch has been a member of the Kiwanis Club for a long period of time and is a member of the Official Board of Cambridge Street Church. He has three sons, Harold a pharmacist, Lawrence a teacher in Fenelon Falls, and Norman, a member of the Victoria and Grey Trust Company. They are all musicians and also adept at the game of curling.

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Several decades ago the name Needler was one of the best known in Lindsay business and sport circles. William Needler will be remembered as a man short of stature, keen eyed, quiet talker and keen in business and a creditable opponent on the curling ice. The firm of Needler and Flavelle, grist mill operators, was well known and carried on a large business among the farming people for many miles in and around Lindsay, operating in the old stone mill on Kent Street east.

A few days ago one of the last of the Needler family was laid to rest in Riverside in the person of Miss Sarah Helena Needler, daughter of the late William Needler. The deceased woman died in Scarborough General Hospital and is survived by one sister Maud. Another sister was the late Mrs. John McLennan and the McLennans lived in the large brick house at the northwest corner of Russell and Mill Streets. Mr. Hugh McLennan, of Lindsay, a nephew of the late Helena Needler was among the mourners.

When Police Constable William March was looking around the attic in the large white brick home at the corner of Queen and St. Paul Streets, a house recently purchased, he came across two large gilt framed charcoal sketches. They are the pictures of two distinguished looking gentlemen. Constable March would like to know to whom the pictures belonged, and the names of the two men.

This large home was built by a Joseph Killaby who was a lumberman and at one time worked for the Rathbun Com-

pany with office and yards at the corner of Lindsay and King Streets. Later on the Killaby house was occupied by a man named Silas Calvert and his son Walter Calvert, who ran a butcher shop in a small store in the present Academy Theatre building.

Charcoal etchings are very old and these two in the possession of Mr. March are well done. Any further clues?