

Four score years ago there were a hundred or more lumber and saw mills and many grist mills in Victoria County and in Haliburton County. Wherever there was water there was a mill or two and lumbering was the chief industry. The buzz of the saw, the grinding of stone wheels in the grist mill and the sound of the steam whistle could be heard in Lindsay, Bobcaygeon, Fenelon Falls, Coboconk, Kinmount, Minden, Haliburton and Omemee.

Akin to these industries followed the carriage and blacksmith shops and at one time Lindsay had three substantial carriage shops, a small one operated by the late Mayor Richard Kylie at the corner of Cambridge and Peel streets, a large carriage shop owned by Dougal Sinclair located in behind the present monumental works in Cambridge Street and the Hamilton Carriage works located on Kent Street in the building now occupied by the Bryan cigar store, for many years Williams Cigar Store.

The Sinclair and Hamilton factories were busy and the products of wagons, sleighs, cutters and buggies were sold in many parts in Ontario.

A map of Lindsay depicts the James Hamilton Carriage Company as being in business on Kent Street in 1875 and it is understood the firm was in business in Lindsay in 1895.

History reports that there was a William Hamilton Carriage Works in Peterboro and that it was burned out in 1939. The two firms are not supposed to have had any connection.

The Lindsay Hamilton's had a large lumber yard at the south-west corner of Kent and Albert Streets, running south on Albert as far as the present fine residential property of George Beall. The lumber yard was surrounded by a high board fence. The Hamilton factory was located on the lane behind the McCombe Billiard Parlor, which was at one time a large abattoir and meat packing plant. To the east of this building was located the Hamilton carriage factory and

the factory was connected with an overhead ramp to the paint and finishing department with a show room and office below, in the building now occupied by the Bryan Cigar store and Billiard Parlour. The show room was on the main floor, along with an office and the front of the building was recessed from Kent street some twelve feet with the front supported by iron posts. Today the second storey of the building is occupied by the owner Mr. E. Frain. At the rear of the large apartment there is a long vacant flat and large dobs and splashes of paint can be noticed as well as several dates of years.

For many years the main floor was occupied by Williams Bros. who at one time ran a bowling alley in connection with the pool and billiard business.

The Hamiltons were leading citizens with Mr. Hamilton an Elder in the Presbyterian church. His son Oswald is remembered by several Lindsay residents as a young student and later as a young man an usher in the church. He is also remembered as the carrier of Communion cards to the Presbyterians and he drove a fine cutter drawn by a spirited horse.

The Sinclair Carriage Works is better known to residents of Lindsay and district and the articles manufactured by this firm were extremely well made and the finished paint was a masterpiece. Dougal Sinclair was known for his wit and as a prankster among friends. His son, Dan Sinclair was known for his ability as a baseball player and his interest in Oddfellowship. He met a tragic death when his canoe upset in the upper Scugog River.

To round out this historical story it can be added that lumber mills in Lindsay included those operated by the Rathbun Company, Robt. Bryans, M. Dovey, Sam Parkin, the Boyd's at Bobcaygeon, the Austins at Kinmount, Rider-Kitchener and later the Carew Lumber Company in Lindsay.



One of the oldest grist and flour mills was operated by Needler, Sadler and Flavelle in the old stone mill on Kent Street east and another mill at the corner of Peel and Victoria Avenue was operated by W. Maunder and son Frank Maunder.