

FORD MOYNES

ON THE MAIN STREET

It is interesting to note that Gene Downey is one of the few of that name residing in the Downeyville area in Emily Township. This young man is a progressive farmer and the son of the late Chas. Downey, who was widely known as the Village Blacksmith and also as a staunch follower of Toryism. Although the village of Ome-mee is widely known the only other hamlet of any size in the Township of Emily is that of Downeyville and history records the fact that a Roman Catholic Church was built in the 1840's at 'Downey's Cross' and at one time the population of the village was numbered 65 and for many years the R.-C. Church at Downeyville has been the center of activity, especially in the days of such Reverent gentlemen as Father Fitzpatrick.

At the same time it is of interest to note that the hamlet of King's Wharf was a thriving settlement of years ago,

dating back to the Robinson immigration when members of the Roman Catholic faith, arriving from Ireland, settled around King's Wharf and Downeyville while many other Protestant immigrants from Ireland, also members of the Robinson immigration, settled in the south part of Emily Township and in the Township of Cavan.

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Below will be found interesting extracts of an historical nature taken from the book, "The Irishman In Canada", which was written by a man named Davin and was published in 1877:

Few Counties have advanced more rapidly than Victoria and few towns have made more vigorous progress than Lindsay. A trip was made to Lindsay on the occasion of the opening of an extension here of the Whitby and Port Perry Railway. The President, Mr. Austin and the Vice-President Mr. James Michie were on the train. The train stopped for a moment at Manilla . . . one of the officials observed, as the wheels began to move over the level line, that they were entering the beautiful township of Mariposa, and he remarked on the wealth of the Township and neighbouring Townships and that the people used to travel as far as Newmarket to buy their goods. The settlement in Mariposa is made up of people from Ireland and Scotland and England. The



same gentleman added: "When the train arrived at Lindsay, crowding on each side of the platform were the citizens, men and women, all looking healthy and comfortable and happy, well-dressed and good looking, with the gleam of hope, the untroubled light of prosperity in their eyes."

The article in part continues: "Lindsay has a street twice as wide as King Street, Toronto, built on either side with large busy stores; has a large lumber and grain trade, telegraph offices, branch banks, schools, grist and saw mills, manufactories of iron castings, machinery, leather, woollen goods, wooden ware, boots and shoes, a brewery and spacious hotels; two weekly newspapers — one edited by C. D. Barr who learned his craft on the Toronto Globe and the other by Mr. Flood, formerly a commercial business man; population 6,000. Several years ago this was a dense forest."

The same writer adds that the population in 1854 was about 400 and in 1861 it reached 3,000. In July of the same year the business portion of the town was destroyed by fire. One of the greatest events in the early history of Lind-

say was the building of the Midland Railway in 1857. Nearly \$200,000.00 was voted in aid of the various railways. At this time the population was overwhelmingly Irish, and among the prominent ones were E. Deacon, a hero of the Crimean War, who became Police Magistrate; William Grace who was descended from a well known Irish Norman family, whose ancestors often led the charge of Feudal warfare to the cry of "Grasseach aboe" — the Grace's cause — became clerk of the County Court of Lindsay, Registrar and Chairman of the School Board. John Dobson, from Cavan, was a successful merchant and became a Senator; William McDonnell was a large property owner and did much to build up the town.

The Canadian Legion Home on York Street was built and occupied by Mr. McDonnell. He was acting magistrate. He had great success as an author. His "Exeter Hall" and "The Heathens of the Heath" vindicated his claim to a place in the literary Pantheon. Thos. Keenan erected a number of stores and other buildings in Lindsay. John Kennedy was Treasurer of the Town of Lindsay and of the Township of Ops. James McGibbon was the Crown Lands Agent, and Jeremiah O'Leary had two sons who became successful barristers, one of whom went as a judge to Port Arthur. Thos. W. Poole M.D., came to Lindsay from Peterborough and was twice mayor of Lindsay. Wm. L. Russell, broker and commissioner, came from the County of Killkeny.

Thos. Matchett was the first representative for the Provincial riding of South Victoria and was County Treasurer. Mr. Edward Veitch was a successful hotel proprietor at the south east corner of Kent and Cambridge Streets. Larry Maguire was Mayor for two years and was a merchant, and his brother-in-law Jos. Dundas was one of Lindsay's heaviest grain buyers.