

On The Main Street

Sept. 26/69

An interesting and intriguing story came to light a few days ago when the writer of Main Street was a guest in the beautiful home of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Williamson, Glenelg Street.

Along with many historical articles was noticed a heavy rifle which bore the name of the one time owner Sam Hughes, then a Colonel and later a Lieut. General. The rifle was used by Sam Hughes in the South African War, known also as the Boer War of 1899-1904. The rifle was brought back to Lindsay and presented to his life long and trusted friend Major J. A. Williamson. The latter in his own right was also a soldier and for many years an officer of the old 45th Victoria Regiment. It is interesting to note that Major Williamson was a crack rifleman and an expert on the Canadian Rifle Team which represented Canada in the famous Bisley match in England. This was in the years 1892 and 1894. The badges presented by the Governor-General of Canada are prize possessions in the Williamson home. Also it is noted in passing that Major Williamson was the proprietor of the Williamson Harness Shop in Lindsay for many years, a past president of the Lindsay Fair and as a Conservative a staunch supporter of Sam Hughes in many a political battle.

It is also of interest to chronicle the fact that Howard Williamson was called on by Sir Sam Hughes as Minister of Militia for Canada to serve in the Armed Forces at Ottawa and following special tests he was despatched in the early days from Ottawa to Lindsay to become Paymaster of the 109th Battalion with the rank of Captain with which unit he went to England and later to France acting in the same important office.

There are many people in the Lindsay district and abroad who still remember the home-coming of the gallant Sam Hughes. There was a tumultuous parade the streets were decorated with ever-green trees and large ever-green arches were strung across Kent Street. The official welcome took place on the



with Ford Moynes

old band stand which was then located on a Park now occupied by the Public Library on Kent Street.

It is reported, not certified, that one other Lindsay South African veteran in the same home-coming welcome was a young man named Williams, an office clerk in the office of Sadler, Needler and Flavelle.

A one time resident of Lindsay, the late W. J. Mullen was also a veteran of the Boer War. He resided at the corner of Cambridge and Bond Streets.

Other war relics in the Williamson residence on Glenelg Street include badges presented to Mr. Williamson, Sr., by the Governor General of Canada for the Bisley competition. Two other warlike souvenirs are two fine bayonets used in the English and French wars of 1869.