

Do you remember the days when farmers used oxen to plough the land, when the old fashioned sickle was used on many a stony field? What about the wood hand cradle and the manner in which the farmer scooped it around and in fence corners and around stone piles, and do you remember the reaper followed by the binder?

Those were the days when the farmer could stook from 25 to 85 large stooks in a day, each stook having 12 large sheaves. Those were the days when the farmer got up real early, spent the day in the field; placed a pail of cool water in a shady spot and perhaps an apple or two, and labored all day without letting up until dark. Often the women folk brought out dinner and supper to the men in the field.

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Of the many former barbers who were born and raised in Lindsay, Walter Richards, Duke Street, is one who has a very retentive memory not only concerning his own day and age but also regarding memories which were related to him by his parents, in connection especially with pioneer days in Lindsay.

Recently in conversation he recalled his father mentioning the time the south-east portion of Lindsay was pretty much swamp and swale, with a pasture and bush where the C.N.R. station was located. He used to get 40c a week for bringing home the cows and he also worked for 25c a day on the farm. At that time work in the house and in the stores was conducted by candlelight and this was followed by lanterns and coal oil lamps. For a short time the town was served with gas lighting.

Walter Richards also recalls that his father was for several years employed as a hosteler, an important work in pioneer days, but particularly in connection with the operation of the Maunder and Carr hostels. It was a common occurrence to stall 40 horses a day but there was a time when Mr. Richards handled as many as 300 horses.

Many Lindsay citizens today well remember Mr. Richards Sr. as an active member of the Loyal Orange Lodge and as organizer for many years of the Independent Order of Foresters.

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How many citizens of the Township of Emily and the village of Omemee remember seeing the exhibit of "Canadians" some years ago in Toronto at the Royal Ontario Museum when a feature included models of pioneer life in Ontario. These were constructed and designed by the late John McCrea of Omemee. Mr. McCrea was a carpenter and cabinet maker.

After retiring from business he moved to Toronto and became interested in recording in wood the details of pioneer life in this province.

Emily Township was one of the first sections of the county to be settled, and Mr. McCrea whose parents were among the early arrivals, acquired a first-hand knowledge of the life of the pioneering forefathers. This early background, vividly retained in his remarkable memory, corroborated by correspondence and travel, combined with painstaking skill and attention to the minutest detail, resulted in this fine collection of models. Occupations such as lumbering, the making of maple sugar, flour milling, carpentry, cabinet-making, soap-making, the sawings of timber in the old-fashioned "saw-pit", all were illustrated at that time. Here, too, one saw the types of buildings erected — the log cabins, stores and churches. There was a completely-furnished church, with pews, pulpit, box-stove and reed-organ, this being largely

drawn from Mr. McCrea's memory of the first Wesleyan Methodist Church at Omemee, of which his father and mother were active members. One could see the various utensils in use around the home, and the tools of farm and shop.

Many of the models were of buildings and items which existed in Emily Township. There was the old "Floating Bridge" built in 1869, which crossed Pigeon River about eight miles north of Omemee. Another interesting bridge was the model of the old rolling or sliding one on Pigeon River, forerunner of the present Cowan's Bridge, near the Emily Provincial Park. There were models too, of early bridges at Omemee — the old mill bridge, the King Street bridge (No. 7 Highway), and the old railway bridge across the mill pond. Though not the first school in Omemee, a log structure was built about 1840, in the south-east section, and was in use for nearly twenty years, and then as a dwelling until 1936, when it was demolished. Mr. McCrea was present when it was being torn down and it was then that he took measurements of the building, and learned other details. He had a log sent to Toronto, and from it was made a model of the old school.

There are some of these models on view permanently at the Royal Ontario Museum.