

The demolition of the Sylvester Manufacturing Company Building at the corner of Victoria Avenue and Kent Street turns back the pages of memory for many readers in Lindsay and far abroad. There are many senior citizens who can recall when this firm employed over 100 men in the manufacturing of binders, cultivators, ploughs, plough points etc., as well as placing on the wheat fields of the Western Prairies one of the first threshing combines ever invented. The two Sylvester brothers were Richard and Robert and the first mentioned was the inventive dynamo and mechanical genius and Robert was Superintendent of the plant. Among the experienced workmen employed in the early days were such well known Lindsay men as James Daniels, Fred Martin, James Nesbitt, Walter Bain, Dougal Moynes and William Stalker.

Richard Sylvester was the builder and owner of the large stone residence at the corner Victoria Avenue and Peel Street which, in the early days, was a show place with well painted barn and the property enclosed with an iron fence and in the front lawn as a very fine fountain. Richard Sylvester at one time owned practically all the area now occupied by Victoria Park and the Lindsay Armory and it is understood that he donated the Park land to the town.

There are those who will remember the Sylvester Brass Band, when some of the best bandsmen in this part of Ontario did a great deal towards contributing to the success of the organization. This band was particularly prominent in the days of World War I, first as the Citizens' Band and later as a Military Band.

The Sylvester Manufacturing Company also boasted many years ago of one of the best baseball teams to be found East of Toronto — a particularly formidable unit in the days of the Lindsay Town League.

It is interesting to note that the Sylvester Company was born some 86 years ago and still of historical interest to note that the site of the Sylvester plant of 10 acres or more was once the first Agricultural Fair grounds in Lindsay, the home of the South Victoria Agricultural Society and history also records that Lindsay's first Drill shed was located on this site.

Mrs. C. M. Squires, Russell Street, is well known to many citizens as a daughter of the late Richard Sylvester and Miss Tot. Sylvester, Kent Street West, is also well known as a daughter of Robert Sylvester.