

The Post

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FORD MOYNES

ON THE MAIN STREET

Ray Miller was a mere boy of four years when he lived with his parents in the then busy village of Gelert where the thrill of a Grand Trunk locomotive was music to the ears. As a lad he remembers well the days he lived in a small board house which was levelled to the ground to make way for the Dominion Arsenal prior to the First World War. He was a lad who loved school. Probably because he loved people and sports and the days of reading and writing and arithmetic spent in the old Union School were memorable ones. Hockey, or shinny as it was called, was played on ponds and creeks.

Ray Miller was in a reminiscent mood when he visited Lindsay a few days ago. "I used to work in my spare time at the Sutcliffe store and it was one of the largest east of Toronto. Billy Ferguson was the head man and others on the staff were Bert Parrish, Ernie Ferguson and I think there was a Percy Moynes, Howard Brokenshire and a C.

A. Hooper was the office manager. A man named Parker handled all deliveries."

Ray Miller was a decorated soldier and has a store of information regarding the First World War and he was also in the Second World War.

"I wanted to enlist but I was not yet 18. I remember the day I had to go to the office of Dr. Howard Nesbitt, the Army Dentist, for the 109th Battalion and he passed me and remarked that he would have to chisel one tooth out or cap it. He capped that tooth and it went through two wars. The 109th was a fine battalion. The reunion the Battalion held in Lindsay in 1966 was a wonderful event and I happened to be on the reception committee."

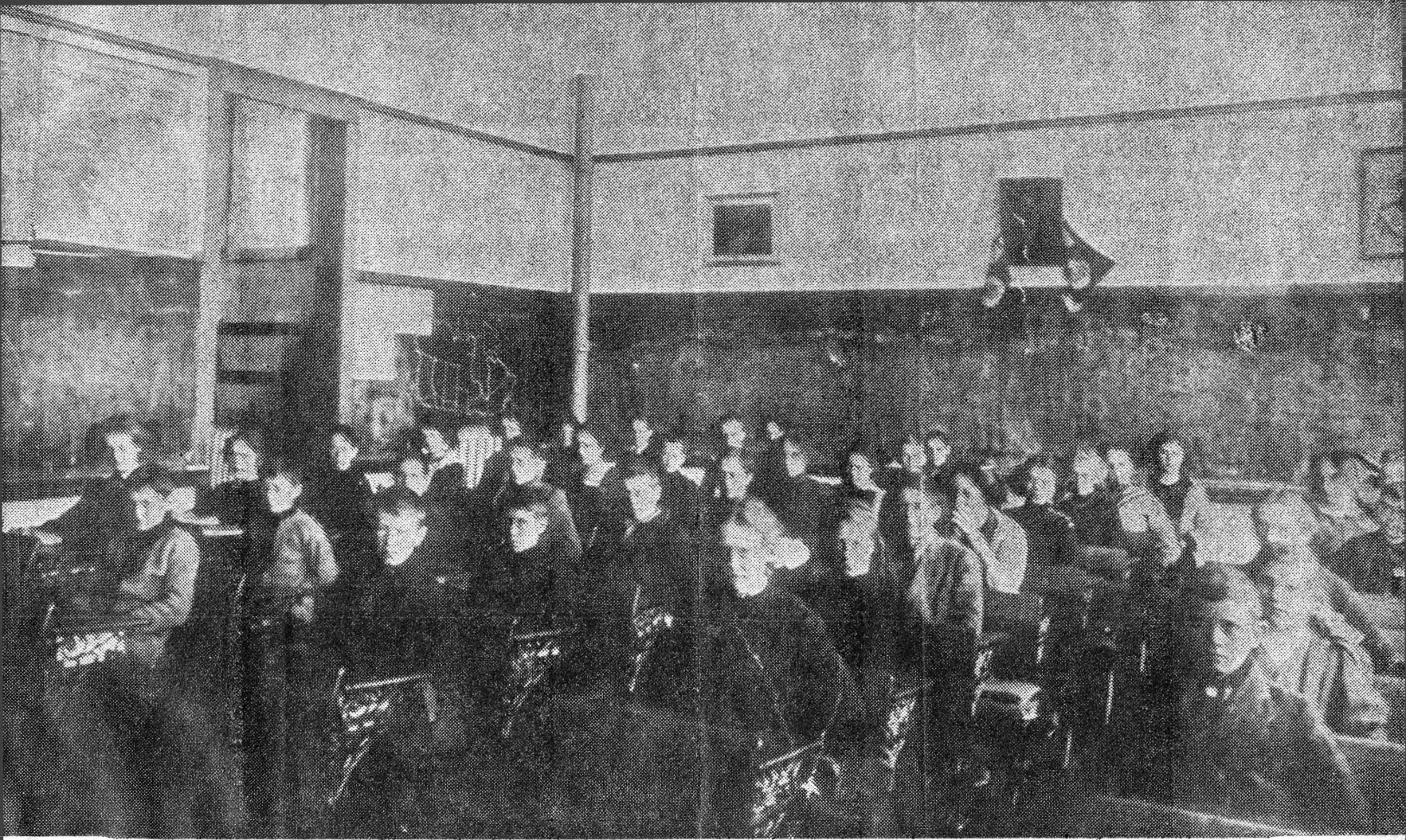
Ray Miller knew Sir Sam Hughes well and recounted how the General sat beside him on a train from Kingston. "I was only 16 and looked it," he said. He was very friendly and soon knew all about my people. He was wearing a heavy scarlet scarf, for it was

winter. "Good luck my boy" was his parting goodbye."

The young soldier Miller wanted to see action in the fields of Flanders and did. He went through the battle at Vimy and he was picked up as being dead at Paschaendale, and survived a bad head injury.

This soldier gentleman has a fund of army stories and has a flair for telling them. He spends his summer holidays at his cottage on Washburn's Island in Scugog Lake.

In a nut shell Ray Miller's interesting life has been as follows: Ray Miller went to school in Lindsay and attended the LCI. He worked for E. E. W. McGaffey and F. W. Sutcliffe and Sons. He enlisted in the old 45th and went to Petawawa in 1914 to camp. He was in the Militia until he enlisted in the 109th on the 30th of November 1915; he was discharged on March 25, 1919 on his 20th birthday. At present he is retired from B.T. Company on a pension covering 41 years, one month of service.



Picture of class Junior IV taken at Lindsay Central School on March 12, 1912. Picture loaned by Ray Miller.