

Long before motor cars using electricity bumped on dirt roads of Lindsay the most popular game for men was known as American Billiards. It was strictly a game of science and a number of Lindsay gentlemen were quite skilful. Most of the games were played on large tables with three ivory balls in use and there were no side pockets. Then the name of pool was introduced which was equally enjoyable, but was less skilful. Many commercial travellers played the game in the old days as there was very few other games to enjoy, apart from skating, snow shoeing and hockey and for others there was the game of checkers and many games of cribbage.

One of the best Billiard Parlors was operated by Geo. Brown and his son Gordon, now a resident on Victoria Avenue and it was located in the present Tangneev block. Other Parlors included: two tables in the Benson Hotel; two in the Doris Parlor; Central Hotel two tables; Simpson Hotel two; Charles Reeves and son four; Brown and son four; and Tom Karrys three.

A. Styles sold his operation over the old Warder building on Kent Street, now the home of Bowes and Cocks, to Herb and Louis Williams who moved into the building now occupied by Ivan Bryans.

At the start of this business Williams Bros. operated two bowling alleys which were taken out when it was discovered that the shaking of the alleys interfered with the billiard and pool tables.

For a time Reub. Morris had two tables for billiards in his tobacco store at the foot of Kent Street. There are many who will remember the Bil-

liard Parlor on Kent Street operated by Ernie Wetherup and later by George Brooks.

Among the family pool tables much in use several years ago were the ones in the home of J. D. Flavelle on Bond Street now used in the same home where Dr. Don Wood now resides. Another popular table was in the home of Dr. Howard Nesbitt on Bond St.

Today there are two well operated and quite popular Billiard Parlors and Pool Rooms in Lindsay, namely the one on Cambridge Street north owned by George McCombe and the Ivan Bryans Parlor on Kent Street.

There were many clever exponents of the game years ago when it was the popular indoor sports before the advent of cars and boats. Among the skilful players were Alex. Paton, Jack Walsh, George Heenan, Eric McKay, R. Patterson, Rainey Burke, George McKay, Harry Thompson, Benny Brainson.

For sheer skill and enjoyment and recreation few games equal that of Billiards and Pool and they are among the oldest games in the world. The two parlors in Lindsay attract many players, young and old, male and female.

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Readers will be interested in knowing the origin of some of the township names:

Fenelon Township was called Fenelon from a brother of the French Archbishop Fenelon of whom the following account is given: "In the autumn of 1663, two Suplicians, Messieurs Fenelon and Trouve, established a mission at the village of the Cayugas on the Bay of Quinte. This M. Fenelon has often been mistaken for the celebrated Archbishop of Cambray. The Canadian missionary's labors in Central Ontario are commemorated by the recurrence of the name Fenelon in the County of Victoria. Our Canadian Abbe was not the Abbe Fenelon who wrote Telemaque and became Archbishop of Cambray; the missionary explorer of our lake shore was the Archbishop's elder brother. They were brother's of County Fenelon-Saliginac, though by different marriages."

Abbe Fenelon spent part of 1669-70 at Pickering Harbor, which for two centuries bore the name of Frenchman's Bay.

The Township of Verulam was named in honor of James Walter Grimstone, Earl of Verulam, born in 1775, died 1845; he married in 1807 Lady Charlotte Henkinson, daughter of Charles, first Earl of Liverpool. He was therefore a brother-in-law of the Lord Liverpool who was Premier of England from 1812 to 1827. One of the Earl of Verulam's daughters, Lady Catherine Grimstone, married in 1839, George W. F. Villiers, fourth Earl of Clarendon. She died in 1874. The title of Earl of Verulam is taken from Verilamium or Verulam, the ancient capital of Britain, and afterwards a Roman station in Hertfordshire, England. Francis Bacon was an Earl of Verulam.

The name of Longford Township is taken from Longford, a central County of Ire-

land, with a capital town of the same name. The river Shannon borders the County for about fifty miles. The Earldom of Longford belongs to the family of Pakenham, which has furnished several distinguished representatives to the church and the naval service. The first Duke of Wellington married a daughter of the Earl of Longford.

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In pioneer days in Victoria County there were many "Settlements". Verulam Township had its Thurstons, Kennedys, Robertsons and Devitts; Mariposa its Websters, Junkins, Glendennings and the Rich family; Eldon had the Howkins, Campbells, the Coads and Grants; Ops had the Robertsons, Hopkins, Murphys, Emily its Wilsons, O'Briens and O'Learys and Fenelon had its Murchisons, Tamblyns and Moynes.

Many more equally well-known pioneer families could be named but space forbids. Recently a conversationalist recalled the name of J. J. Devitt, an ex-councillor and ex-reeve of Verulam and former Warden of the County. Several months ago a son, the well-known Gordon Devitt, a merchant in Bobcaygeon, retired after many years of active life in the grocery and dry goods business. Quiet and unassuming in disposition, but active in others fields of endeavor, a churchman, a violinist, a curler, Gordon Devitt's experience as a young business man dates back to the days when he called on farmers in the district and drove 22 miles to Lindsay to deliver fruit to Flavelle's Limited. He collected and sold thousands of eggs and seldom had a breakage. He started many a young boy on his way in business as a worker, even to the days when young Steve Gendron earned his first 50 cents picking long sprouts off potatoes for a remuneration of 50 cents were generous in days gone by.

As a curler, Gordon Devitt and his wife Mae are known for many miles in the district in the days when curlers were busy with games in the area. A salute to the Devitts.