

Very few residents of Lindsay ever experienced the thrill of prospecting for gold or silver, however, there is one gentleman who vividly recalls the mad rush to Northern Ontario and to Cobalt in particular and he is Mr. John Williams who has been a resident at 14 Fair Avenue for many years.

Mr. Williams was best known to many business men when he was associated as bookkeeper and office manager for Arnold Motors on Kent Street. He was also for a number of years associated with the Daily Post in the capacity of bookkeeper.

"I recall the day when the news of finding 'pay dirt' was flashed across the country in bold type on the front page of Toronto newspapers and I was one of hundreds who hiked to the North. There was a thirst for ore of any kind and it was quite an experience to stake a claim as I did. As far as I was concerned my claim never paid big dividends but it was a help."

Mr. Williams stuck to Cobalt and witnessed many prospectors "come and go". Some located veins which paid but the large majority "lost their shirts".

Recently Mr. Williams attained his 94th birthday and friends and acquaintances will be pleased to learn that he is enjoying good health and takes a good deal of pleasure from his radio and from the T.V., and besides tuning in the news broadcasts he likes to watch hockey games.

John Williams was born in the old village of Raglan, south of Port Perry, but has lived practically all his years in Lindsay. His church home is Cambridge Street United and he well remembers former ministers, including such stalwarts as Reverends Black, Neal, McIntosh, Holling, Going, Tilton, Barraclough, McLean, Bishop and Henderson.

For a number of years Mr. Williams was in the office of The Daily Post in the years when T. J. Begley was the Editor and J. Ernest Blewett, Advertising Manager. He spent several years with the late Thos. Arnold in the automobile business and early in his bookkeeping days he was in the office of the Maunder Milling Company.

Mr. Williams has been a resident on Fair Avenue for many years and recalls the days when there were comparatively few homes in the area, when the Collegiate campus was a hay field and when there were very few buildings at the Fair Grounds. He stated that he is very proud to be a citizen of Lindsay and still a staunch supporter of the Conservative party. He has staunchly supported the Con-

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servative party since the days of Whitney, Ferguson, Bracken and Diefenbaker.

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Vimy Ridge veterans are celebrating that memorable battle and have been recalling days in the trenches and on the ridges and hills in France. A different memorable occasion was brought to mind a few days ago. Veteran George Munt was the first soldier to return to Lindsay with an English war bride. These were the days when Lindsay business men were alerted on when and at what time returning soldiers arrived and veterans

were welcomed at the Lindsay railway depots. Veteran Munt was met by Felix Forbert, a Kent Street merchant, driven to the Armoury and then to the Munt home in the East Ward, where this well known veteran still resides.

The first English war bride to arrive in Canada is believed to be Mrs. J. A. Lawson. Mr. and Mrs. Lawson landed at St. John's, New Brunswick, April 10, 1919 on the CPR liner Malita.

Born in Lindsay, Mr. Lawson enlisted with the 109th Battalion in November, 1915 and served with the 20th Second Division. Mr. and Mrs. Lawson reside at RR 5, Lindsay.

Many decades ago Obidiah Rigelow was a prominent Lindsay citizen and was responsible for "transplanting" small frame dwellings from the upper end of Bond Street, then Waverley Street, to new locations in the South Ward. Two of these houses are located on William Street South, close to the Baptist Church, and a third domicile was planted at the north-east corner of Lindsay and Russell Streets.

It was originally a roughcast building. Several years ago the building was purchased by J. C. Burke, a progressive young man who closed in the verandah and opened up a corner grocery store, candy store, newspaper and periodical stand. J. C. Burke was the friend of many Catholic boys and girls, especially when he handed out oodles of one cent candies and lollypops. The small brick cottage to the south was occupied by a Mrs Killen, a friend of boys. It was always a beauty spot and was surrounded by a small evergreen hedge.

The present McArthur house on the southeast corner of Lindsay and Russell was occupied for many years by G. H. M. Baker who operated a small lumber mill and yard at the corner of Lindsay and King Streets.

A large red brick residence on the north-west corner of Lindsay and Russell Streets was occupied by Dr. Gillespie, by Dr. W. Brown and by Leigh R. Knight.

The old and historic Separate School and grounds was located on the south-west cor-

ner of the same streets.

Many citizens of Lindsay recollect the bad floods which overflowed a large wooden box drain at the corner of Lindsay and Russell Streets. Cellars filled with floating potatoes, cut wood for the stoves and pickle jars. This was for weeks a muddy, messy mire. The old box drain emptied near the old grist mill at the foot of Mill Street and after the Town installed a modern sewer at the Russell Street corner young boys were wont to play in the old wooden structure.