

One hundred years ago the congregation at the old Methodist Church at Manilla numbered one hundred counting all heads, babies included. On the second Sabbath of this September the congregation observed the 100th Anniversary when present and former members flocked to the old brick edifice to register their continued interest in the sacred sanctuary.

The Sunday congregation included many from distant points and in a sense it was a reunion of the clan. It was interesting to hear the retelling of incidents relating to former days in the village, which at one time was the busiest place in a wide district.

The name of Delurey was often mentioned and one story centered around Prof. Delurey, who later added the prefix "Dean" to his name, and the story of the advent to Manilla of the Williamsons, the father of the late Major J. A. Williamson, the latter gentleman having carried on a harness making store in Manilla and then moving on to Lind-

say where his harness shop was known for many miles around Victoria and Ontario Counties.

The Williamson family farmed south and west of the village and sold a section of land to the Glendennings and just as the Delureys became known in educational circles in Toronto and Ottawa, two capital cities, so also became the Glendennings in agricultural circles, especially in the days when Henry Glendenning was Provincial Minister of Agriculture.

It was also recalled how parents used to refer to the days when Manilla had two hotels and how hostelries were scattered all through the area with three at Woodville, two at Cannington and one at Sunderland and how farmers hauled grain from as far north as Argyle and Beaverton through Manilla on the rough and dusty road to Port Hoover and to Port Perry. Manilla was then the overnight stopping place.

A side story tells about a gentleman from England who started in Manilla as a jeweler, moved on to Oakwood and then to Lindsay, where he founded the Beall Jewelry store. This was Thos. Beall, who was succeeded in business by his son George and by the latter's son, George W. Beall, a resident on Albert Street South. Thos. Beall is reported to have been one of the founders of the Masonic Lodge at Oakwood, today known as Faithful Brethren No. 77 in Lindsay.

Manilla was also the home of the Hickingbottom family and a "mighty 'smithy' was he". This gentleman, father of Vern Hickingbottom of Lindsay, is reported as having been the strong man of the district and among other articles he could hoist when challenged, was a barrel of flour or pork. It is understood that the beautiful stone house owned by Stewart Flavelle on Albert Street in Lindsay was the former Hickingbottom home and was moved to Lindsay for re-erection.

Thus is chronicled a few historical items in connection with the Village of Manilla.