

Two important names were unheard at the annual dinner meeting of the Victoria County Historical Society a few nights ago, namely those of Laidlaw and McQuarrie.

Visitors to the National Museum at Toronto should look over the large and very interesting exhibit placed there in memory and honor of Col. Geo. Laidlaw, a display of Indian relics — skeletons, bones, Indian headgear, costumes, bows, arrows, pottery, etc. In fact the Government years ago printed thousands of copies of a paper bound book with illustrations of the Laidlaw collection.

That Indians roamed the lands and paddled on the rivers and lakes in his area has been authenticated and the reading is exciting and exhaustive.

The Laidlaw Fort stood on the shore of Balsam Lake near Victoria Road and many relics have been dug up. A few years ago university students did some digging and research work on Indian Point near Coboconk. Through the years arrow heads and bits of Indian pottery have been found at Pleasant Point, Sturgeon Point,, Long Beach and as far inland as Cameron and Cambray.

The fact that the Iroquois and Hurons as well as the explorer Champlain camped at

Thurstonia Park on Sturgeon Lake has been marked by a plaque on a huge boulder at Thurstonia Park.

Mention is made in the above introduction to Dan McQuarrie chiefly because he founded the Victoria County Historical Society and this was a hard task — selling a number of local people, the Town Council and the County Council.

He had vision; he had enthusiasm, energy and perseverance. For a time he was a one man crusader, formed the nucleus of the present Historical Society and witnessed the growth. Today this society is well organized with a large membership and Dan McQuarrie's dream of a museum materialized and came true as has been evidenced many times.

The Museum is one of the best in the Province and the present slate of officers of the Society have something to be proud of.

Dan McQuarrie has contributed a great deal to the community life of Lindsay and district. He had to work hard as a boy on the homestead farm at Argyle; as a teacher in a small school in Bexley where he practically taught for his board and a few dollars. He pitched big bundles of sheaves on the wheat fields of the Canadian western prairies and also taught school.

Dan McQuarrie was Registrar of Victoria County. He was a member of the Board of Education and he was a District Governor for the Rotary Club. One of his greatest community efforts was his titanic effort as Lindsay's Industrial Commissioner when he worked without hope of remuneration and was successful in bringing five industries to Lindsay including the Visking and Brakeblock. For this great work the town council presented him with a cheque for one thousand dollars for some twenty - four months work when he was still the County Registrar.

This, in curtailed and capsule form is a sketch of the founder of the Victoria Historical Society, a name which was unintentionally overlooked at the annual meeting. Incidentally Mr. Jim McQuarrie, immediate Past President of the above society was in attendance at the dinner.