

"Beneath the spreading Chestnut tree the Village Smithy Stands". Remember the swarthy and bronzed 'Smithy?'"

Children of yesterday will never forget the blacksmith and boys and girls of to-day will probably never have the thrill of standing at the door of the shop or see the husky blacksmith work the big bellows with one arm and expertly thrust the horse shoe at the end of a big pair of tongs into the fire then into a tub of dirty water. or hear the sizzling sound of boiling water, or see the shower of dazzling sparks.

Few will see the skilful manner in which the blacksmith tossed the hot shoe upwards and downwards or hear the mighty blows as the shoe was cleverly shaped and expertly nailed to the hoof of a fractious or perhaps a docile horse.

The blacksmith played a real and very important part in the life of many communities. A few names come to mind, including Joe Henderson and Oscar Thurston of Bobcaygeon, Kelly of Fennelon Falls, Dorgan of Downeyville, Robinson of Woodville, Hickingbottom and Ferguson of Manilla, Jones, Wallace Battle, Ed. St. John, John O'Leary, Andy and Joe and Phil. Cain, Bill Carley of Lindsay and others.

The life of the village was at one time a popular and choice piece of poetry in the old fourth reader used in the public schools. The book is a valuable antique to-day.

A FEW FIRSTS. The first fire hall in Lindsay was on the south side of Kent Street in the present Tangney block and there were two fire alarm bells, one on the top of a high stand at the corner of Lindsay and Kent Street east, and the other at the corner of King and St. Paul streets.

The first agricultural fair grounds was on Kent street west, on the block, now used by Loblaw's.

Britton's jewelry store, the oldest establishment, was at the corner of Kent and Ridout streets, now Polito's.

Carpet ball was played in the Woodmen of the World lodge room above Britton's store.

Many residents of the north ward secured their drinking water from a pump on the Court House lawn at the corner of Colborne and Cambridge street. The first baseball grounds was at Cambridge and Melbourne and Victoria Ave.

Two large brick manufacturing yards were near the Pottery Corners, now known as Suicide Corners on Lindsay Street south. The Curtin and Fox yards were adjacent to each other. Samuel Fox was a member of the Ontario Legislature.

Queen street "Methodist" Church was on John street, opposite the East Ward school and later the congregation built a large white brick church at the corner of Queen and Caroline streets.

Beal's tannery was at the west end of Wellington street bridge now part of the McDonnell park.

The first public library, the Mechanic's Library, was over the present Dominion Bank.

There were five horse-liveries and two carriage factories.

The oldest cemeteries were on the north ward school grounds and on the golf grounds and another cemetery at the head of the present Kawartha Drive on Verulam Road.