

Post. May 8/75

# On The <sup>Lindsay</sup> Main Street <sup>History.</sup>

How many readers remember the gentleman who was known and called a cabby? Every town had two or three cabbies, men who made a living driving cabs, a recognized means of transportation years ago.

Every livery stable had at least one employee who drove a cab and Lindsay was the home of several first class cabbies with the family called Workman, quite prominent. At one time the Workman's had a livery on York Street South, equipped with beautiful buggies, plus a fancy cab, brightly painted, genuine leather seats and cushioned upholstery, a dash board and an extra pair of large lamps attached to the dash board on both sides.

Light weight dusters covered the seats and were at times used to cover the knees and legs of occupants. In the winter months the dusters were tucked away out of sight and were replaced by Buffalo robes, lined with heavy cloth.

The drovers or cabbies, sat in the front seat, an elevated seat. After dusk settled across the land, the cabby lit the dash board lights with a match and adjusted the oiled wick and it was surprising how long the wicks burned. The introduction of electric battery lights was revolutionary and for a time the jiggling of the car caused the lights to go out.

The best carriages, buggies and wagons were manufactured by a man named Hamilton, with a display shop on Kent Street, now the Edwards Hardware store, followed by a carriage shop, now a billiard parlor and cigar store.

The Sinclair carriage factory occupied a large area at the corner of Peel and Cambridge Streets and extending along a lane west of the fire hall to Victoria Avenue.

William Skitch "turned out" sleighs in a shop at the corner of William and Wellington Streets, in a large frame building which was originally

a Methodist Church, the property being abandoned when the present Methodist-United Church was erected at Bond and Cambridge Streets.

History records that one of the first methodist congregations occupied a frame building on the west side of Sussex Street and Wellington Street.

While on the subject of churches, the first presbyterian church service was held in a small frame building on the north side of Francis Street. This church became St. Andrew's, the present fine edifice at William and Peel Streets. Two pioneers to occupy the pulpit were Rev. McTavish and Rev. MacMillan.

The first Anglican Church was on Kent Street, now the location of the Dominion Store and the Anglican property extended easterly to the present Pulver's Store.

The first Roman Catholic Church is reported to have occupied land on Angeline Street South and for many years the congregation attended church in a building at the south west corner of Lindsay and Russell Streets.

The first Queen Street Methodist Church was on Bertie Street and the second church was on the south east corner of Queen and Caroline Streets. The first meeting place for the Salvation Army was in Victoria Hall on William Street, now the location of the Skitch Terrace.

Cambridge Street Baptist occupied a building on Wellington Street, on land now occupied by the Salvation Army.