

Nov. 21/66
with Ford Moynes

"Fond memories were recalled when I read the article about the Crandell family with particular reference to Arthur Crandell and his father Capt. George Crandell," remarked a Main Street fan a few days ago.

"I recall the days when my father was in charge of the old Crandella, a big two wheel passenger steamer and the days of excursions to Sturgeon Point. Arthur Crandell built the store at Queen and Caroline Streets, across from the old 'Barefoot' Methodist Church. Why they named that church 'Barefoot' I think was because it was the church where the poorer people worshipped as compared to the big church on Cambridge Street, but the Queen Street Church was the friendly church and the days of Rev. McMullen, Phelps, Strike, Real, Coon and others were wonderful days."

Going back over the pages of memory this Main Street reader added: "There was quite a number of friendly neighbours in this section of town, including Mrs. Ellen Sharpe, who for years was a Children's Aid Secretary as well as Truant Officer. Other families in the neighbourhood included Brooks, Cote, Blewett, Raymes, Milton, Gertrude, Maud and Jean Fee, Freemont Crandell in the big white house on Colborne Street with his daughters Vina, Annie, Gussie and a son Freemont. I recall Seatons, Hendersons, Elliots, Parkers and Mr. and Mrs. Jim Mitchell and their daughters Margaret, Mable, Hazel, Olive, Florence and Gladys — a wonderful family and all devoted to the Queen Street Church. Then there was a Barber named Jim Appleby and a lumberman called Joe Killaby.

Killaby built the big white house at the south east corner of Queen and St. Paul and he owned a lumber yard which fronted on Queen Street and

went through to King Street with a side entrance on St. Paul Street."

Our conversationalist remarked: "I could go on and on but this would take up too much space. However, mention should be made of the McWatters family, a baker and a confectioner who was also Sunday School Superintendent.

There was Joe Staples, a grocer at King and St. Peter Streets who was choir leader in Queen Street Church; the Vickerys, Coburns, Stevens, Mills, Campbells, Morrisons and many others, including Tresidder, Pogue and Hartleys. Perhaps I can recall more about this old time wonderful neighbourhood at a later date."

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To-day when father drives his eight cylinder free wheeling, automatic convertible, junior manipulates his blatting hot rod and mother is trying out her Honda, a local venerable gentleman recalled the evolution which has taken place in vehicular transportation in Lindsay.

Ninety-nine years ago there were two large carriage manufacturing factories in Lindsay. The name of Dougal Sinclair was known to all farmers, liverymen and others in a wide district.

The Sinclair Carriage works was located east of Cambridge street, south of Peel street and west of Victoria avenue. Some of the buildings are standing today. Some 50 men were employed in the foundry and blacksmith shop, the wood-turning shop and the painting shop. Sinclair carriages, buggies, wagons, cutters and

sleighs were the best in the land. Andy Warrilow, antique dealer at Cameron has one of the old Sinclair surreys on his property. Not only was the fringe on top the pride and joy of owners but the material and workmanship of the rig still stands up.

The Hamilton Carriage Works was located where the Williams Cigar store and pool room is now situated. The firm also manufactured a fine line of vehicles. The workshop was at the rear of the present building occupied by McCombe's billiard parlor, the paint shop was on the second storey on Kent Street and the display room on the ground floor in the Kent street building.

Another evolution in the motor car industry which affected Lindsay, The Dominion Wheel Company owned and operated by former Mayor Dan McLean, turned out wooden or artillery car wheels by the hundreds. This factory was also located behind the McCombe place of business. The advent of the steel wheel put the wooden wheels out of business.

Another form of transportation business, that of manufacturing canoes, also disappeared for a spell of years in Lindsay. The Jesse Perrin boat works was located on Kent street east. It was a lively place in the days when Lindsay had a Canoe Club. The Perrin boats were known far and wide. Perrin also had a big work shop on the lower end of Ridout street and was succeeded in the manufacturing of boats by Sam Botting.