

Fenelon Falls, at one time referred to as the Cataract Village, because of the beautiful blue water which cascades in torrents downward to a depth of several yards, has been the home of many loyal citizens and two of them were familiarly called by their first name "Charlie". Charles Burgoyne owned and operated one of the finest mercantile stores in this part of Ontario and he was called Charlie when he was commodore of the good ship "Wacouta", which carried passengers to and from the Falls to Lindsay before the automobile entered the scene. This store and Charles Burgoyne did a tremendous business in the days of lumbering, railroading and boating.

Another villager by the name of Charlie, who is still in the land of the living is Charlie Edwards, who passed the 98th milestone a few days ago and at the time of writing

is a resident in the Scott nursing home on Russell Street. This gentleman first saw the light of day in the village of Fenelon Falls. He attended school in the then hamlet but quit at an early age in order to earn money to help his mother raise the family. As a youngster he loved horses and it was natural that he drifted into the livery business when horses, buggies and wagons were the chief means of transportation. This gentleman used to boast that he owned and personally drove the best equines in the north country. It was rather a sad day for Charlie Edwards when the horseless carriage came into being. "I fell in line with the times," he remarked, "and I was one of the first to have an automobile, but I was always glad to drive a spirited mare."

Continuing to recall the past, he remembers that Major General Sir Sam Hughes was one of his best customers and he added "one of the best paying customers". Many a time I drove Sir Sam to different parts of the country north of Fenelon Falls and these were the days when political meetings were held in small halls in country places. Sir Sam's picture in a scarlet red uniform used to hang in many a home and in several lodge rooms, particularly if they were Orange Lodges.

Charlie Edwards was, it is reported, the first member and one of the first officers of the Masonic Lodge in Fenelon Falls. He also served for several years as a member of the village council.

Many friends in Fenelon Falls and elsewhere will join in extending belated birthday greetings to Charlie Edwards.