

business is popularly called throughout the district, has an interesting history dating back to the year 1856. The name McKillop, however, goes back further to 1818 when Archibald McKillop, grandfather of the present proprietors, settled just south of where the village of West Lorne now stands. At that time the Great Western Railway, which ran through that section of the province, was about ten miles north and was the only means of land communication. It was necessary for the settlers along Lake Erie to tramp through the forest for a day or so to get to the railway.

Time passed and two sons, Archie and Duncan McKillop, established a sawmill of the old, up-in-the-morning and down-in-the-afternoon variety. Around this primitive establishment a small collection of houses was built and a blacksmith's shop. It became known as McKillop's Corners. This was three-quarters of a mile south of the present village of West Lorne.

The old frame house at the corners where the McKillop Brothers of to-day were born is still standing and in good repair although over sixty summers have passed since it was erected. It is another testimonial to the lasting qualities of wood - the world's most precious material.

The remainder of the area of the district was covered with magnificent hardwood timber, some of which is still being cut.

The early McKillop sawmill was built on the north arm

of Brock's Creek. This was in 1836, nearly seventy years ago. The creek which flows south into Lake Erie, was named after the General Brock of Queenston Heights fame. It was at the mouth of this small river that the Canadian general met his Indian Allies, who came by foot over a beaten path from the north. This meeting with the redskins was preparatory to an attack on Fort Detroit. The spot was a great gathering-place of the Indians who held big chestnut roasts in the fall of the year. At the present time corn is grown abundantly in this district and in those days the Indians operated several corn-plantations.

The little sawmill at McKillop's Corners cut the big chestnuts and whitewoods, four and five feet across, into deals for the Old Country, which they shipped by water on Lake Erie to Buffalo. The price obtained was \$9 and \$10 per M. or more.

The first mill was operated by steam and was burned down in 1864. It was rebuilt on the old site and operated until 1884. Ten years before that date the village of West Lorne was incorporated. On the completion of the Canada Southern Railway into West Lorne in 1872, which line is now operated by the Michigan Central, the mill site was moved from the old corners up to the railroad.

In 1901 the McKillop mill property was appropriated by the Pere Marquette line which runs alongside the Michigan

Central. The mill was moved to its present position on a spur of the Pere Marquette.

Associated with the business to-day are the four McKillop brothers: - Dan. McKillop, president; J.A. McKillop, secretary-treasurer and from whose abundant store of knowledge of the history of the section, this reference was written; Hugh C. McKillop, M. P., director, and A. McKillop, formerly manager, but now residing in St. Thomas, Ont.

Besides the operation of the sawmill which cuts elm, chestnut, oak, maple, basswood and hickory, the company operate a planing mill and sash and door department, the material for this part of the business being brought in. The average diameter of the hardwood logs is around two and three feet, and are cut from limits that were acquired back in the 70's by the McKillop family. The farthest of these limits is located about ten miles from West Lorne and logs are brought in by team in the winter. The supply of wood in their bush will last for another fifteen or twenty years.

In spite of the quantity in sight, the firm have been interested in reforestation for some time. Last year under the supervision of Archie McKillop, twelve acres of pines and chestnuts were planted near West Lorne.

The McKillop sawmill cuts annually from one half to three quarters of a million feet of hardwood. Last season the mill had an exceptionally long run of ninety days without

a single mishap. This luck was in no small measure aided by the excellent conditions of the saws at all times.

J. Burger, the chief engineer of the mill, has been with the McKillop's for over fifty years and all the saws used in the establishment come under his personal supervision. Mr. Burger came to the McKillop's when a lad of seventeen and has been in their employ ever since.

The hardwood limits held by the McKillop family are among the few remaining commercial stands in Southern Ontario. The product of the McKillop sawmill naturally finds its way in large quantities to the American automobile manufacturers at Detroit. Canadian wagon and carriage makers, handle and woodenware manufacturers are also large consumers of the native hardwoods of the district.

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BANK OF MONTREAL

On November 12, 1903, a branch of the former Merchant's Bank was opened in West Lorne. Later the Merchant's Bank was amalgamated with the Bank of Montreal and carried on under the latter name. On November 12, 1953, the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the bank in West Lorne was celebrated.

Until 1914 the bank's premises were in the A. McKillop and Sons' block on the east side of Graham Street. The corner lot on the opposite side of the street, once occupied by the Elgin Hotel, was then purchased by the bank and the present building was erected.

The only industrial concerns in the village when the bank was formed were the West Lorne canning factory, later taken over by Canadian Cannery, Limited, and A. McKillop and Sons' lumber business. Since that time the village has experienced marked growth industrially; mixed farming, as well as the growing of tobacco and other specialized crops have grown in importance. The population of the village has increased, public services, including paved highways, hydro-electric lighting, the construction of substantial buildings such as the Community Hall, the building of many fine new homes, are evidence of the spirit of progress in the community. In all this development the bank has been, and continues to be, an important contributing factor.

A.C. Paterson, later an inspector for the Merchants' Bank, was the first manager. He was succeeded in order by J.N. Kennedy, ^{W.G. Thompson} D.T. McGuire, J.H. Matson, J.H. Cantelon, H.L.S. Jordan and W.H. Bell. Mr. Bell was followed by the present manager, G.C. Stephens. Mr. Stephens is an active participant in community affairs, being a member of the Kiwanis Club and the Chamber of Commerce. He enjoys fishing in his spare time and is an avid baseball and hockey fan.

Over the years the local branch of the Bank of Montreal has been intimately connected with every phase in the development of West Lorne.

This article was prepared by

Miss Mima Currie.

JAMES CULLEN AND SON

FURNITURE AND UNDERTAKING BUSINESS

In 1900 James Cullen came to West Lorne and, taking into partnership his son, Fred J. Cullen, aged sixteen, established a furniture and undertaking business under the firm name of James Cullen and Son. Mr. Cullen has previously been in the undertaking business in Delaware.

The first place of business was a store on Main Street owned by the late James Bole. In March, 1903, a move was made to the store on Graham Street, which the firm occupied until 1948 when the business was sold to James Ripley, the present owner. The store was practically a new one in 1903, one side of the street having been burned out in the fire of 1900, after which it was rebuilt.

The elder Mr. Cullen lost a leg in 1924 and his son carried on the business till 1939 when he sold the undertaking business but retained the furniture business. In 1947 Mr. Fred J. Cullen had an attack of coronary thrombosis and from then till it was sold in 1948 Mrs. Cullen carried on the business.

Although the elder Mr. Cullen died in 1934, the firm kept its form name of James Cullen and Son as it had for forty-eight years, a record that is not exceeded by any other business men in West Lorne.

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