

Some of the original houses built by the early settlers might be considered worthy of recall. One of the first homes built in West Lorne was the one on the site of the present beautiful residence of Mr. Merritt on Mary St. It was built by Mr. Lanson Bullock, a fine type of an old style Englishman. He was a good speaker and a prominent exhorter in the Methodist Church. The first house in West Lorne proper was, I believe, what is now the residence of John Murray on Graham St. It was built by Mr. John McCallum who was the builder of the original Lorne Flour Mills. He was a great Book-lover and had copies of the Toronto Globe almost from its inception till he disposed of his house. Mr. Cullen's house on Main St. was one of the first built on Main St. West. Wm. McInis built it when the Town first started and Mr. Caton, night operator at the M.C.R. built the one next to it now owned by Mr. Fred Edwards. Mr. Blackwood on his arrival in the Town built his fine home on the hill, the house later occupied by H. C. McKillop. *(Padfield Funeral Home)* One of the first houses built on South Graham was the one now occupied by Andy Wiley. It has been remodelled since. It was built by Mac McCallum and a similar one was built along side of it to the North by John Roach. The latter was moved across the road and formed the nucleus of the dwelling now occupied by Mr. Graham. The fine homes owned by Dr. Ripley and Dr. Brock were built early in the history of the Town but of course have been substantially rebuilt since. Thos. Clark's house at the West End was erected when the Station was built at the

West End, as was also the Trigger home there. The D. McPherson home was one of the early houses. It was built by J. H. Greer, a noted Lumberman, and Mill Owner. James Hind built the Bole Residence a year or two earlier than the Greer home.

The first Church in West Lorne was built by the Methodist Denomination. Many of the early settlers in this section of Aldborough were either direct from England or from "down below" as the region around Trafalgar and Oakville was designated. Considerable rivalry existed in a friendly way. The newcomers were a little critical of some of the methods used by the originals. In 1864 a logging bee was held to clear up the land on the flats of Brock's Creek and later owned by Mr. H. Miller. At the Dinner Hour, the usual contrasts in men and methods was being discussed with a doughty champion praising and extolling some of the wonderful feats of the men of York, when one of the originals blandly said, then there are some good men "Down Below". The spell binder quickly agreed that there were, when his interlocutor continued, but I understood all the Devils in Hell were "Down Below" and this unexpected retort ended the laudation for the time being. But the men that came to Aldborough were like Jacob's sons and they believed in religion and religious principles and as soon as the Village started, the congregation of McKillop's Corners decided to build a New Church on the site of the old Methodist Church on Munroe St., and faithfully they worked until it was built. The building

was erected by James Trigger, Thomas Clark and other local carpenters. A short time afterward the Presbyterians built the Church on the ground where now stands the United Church. It was built by Charles Mulholland, also a splendid workman. The church had a lofty spire whose glittering top shone beautiful in the morning sunlight, visible for miles away. The first pastor of the Methodist Church in West Lorne was Rev. Mr. Hanna and the first Presbyterian Preacher was the Rev. John Milloy who ministered to the Church until he was a very old man when he retired to spend his declining years with his children in Canada's new West Land. The Baptist Church was built in 1878 and a local church was organized here. The Baptists, however had held meetings previously in this district, in School Houses as did also the Disciples. Rev. Peter Carey was the first preacher of the newly established Baptist Church. The Anglican Church was also established here in the 70's. There was a strong Temperance sentiment and a Temperance Society built a Hall in the West End. The Society having finally decided to give up their Lodge, they sold it to the Anglican Church. Dr. Schulte, a talented scholar from St. Thomas was the first Incumbent. So far as I know these were all the Churches here in the decade we are considering.

There was quite a difference of opinion as to whether Main St. or Graham St. would be the business st. of the Town. One of the first stores in the Town was kept by Mr. ^{Cyrenius Offord} Lemon and strange to say one of the Department stores of the Town is

(Joseph later his grandson V. Earl.
 still carried on by his son. The first store built on Graham St. was on the corner occupied now by the Skinner block. It was carried on by Stewart and McKillop at first, afterwards by Colin Gillies who came in from Eagle. Facing Main St. Alex. Beaton built the Cafeteria Building which was first occupied by that genuine old style Gentleman, Robert Blackwood. A Mr. Carroll built a round topped-front store where the Bole Building is. It was later occupied by McKenzie and Calder. Afterward it was moved to the West End but trade did not follow it and it was finally converted into a dwelling, being moved over to face on Munro St. now occupied by Robert Mills. Kemp Brothers also ran a Boot and Shoe store adjoining it. They sold out and bought two farms on which they built similar shaped houses on Back St. now occupied by Mr. Stokes and Mr. Evans. A Tailor Shop was built by Mr. Groh a splendid Tailor. The building is still there and is occupied by Mr. Lush. Mr. Crawford a general Merchant built a store where the Campbell Block is. The late Duncan McPherson went in partnership with him and when it was dissolved he built a large frame store where the P. M. Platform now stands. Dr. Yates built a dwelling and office next to Stewart's store but as he was not a graduate of an Ontario College, he was forced to go back to Michigan. Miss Sarah Leverington built a hat and dress making shop where Brown's store now is. The late Mr. E. R. Mogg built a fine Grocery store on the West side of Graham St. and in which he also carried on the first Bakery in West Lorne.

In those days no town could be started without a number of Hotels. The first Hotel in West Lorne was built by Joseph Wilton who sold his farm on Back St. and built the Commercial Hotel. Adjoining it he built the first Oddfellow's Hall the first Lodge in West Lorne. The second Hotel was the Argyle built by Colin McKillop and though the present Hotel has changed its interior and exterior somewhat, still it not only retains the name but also many of the original features of the first building. Samuel Mogg built on the S.E. Corner of Main and Graham Sts. a very large Hotel with many rooms. It was the scene of a riot once when hoodlums from the Railway builders camp came up in force to break up a Hallow'een Dance and were succeeding fairly well in their object when a young man, West Lorne's first butcher, grabbed a poker and knocked out the ring leader and the home crowd, mostly mill hands, rallied and by main strength threw out the remaining ruffians. After that it was like Byron's "On with the Dance" but it was not quite as successful as the usual dances. This Hotel was later better known as the "Rooms Hotel". The original owners were succeeded by Messers Fitzpatrick, McMillan and Morgan and on the whole West Lorne had rather better and more efficient Bonifaces than many neighboring Villages during the early 70's.

The first School in what is now West Lorne was down at McKillops corner. In the early 70's a new building was erected on the site where Mrs. John Lemon's House is. The Town grew so quickly at the start that a new room had to be added in a year or two and still another had to be added be-

fore the first decade was over. The history of the Schools would make a paper by itself.

West Lorne from the first was always a busy hive of Industry, from the timber lands surrounding it. Saw Mills and Stave factories early made their appearance. The first Stave Mill was operated by the late postmaster D. McKillop but he disposed of it and another one operated by Mr. Reese was built in the West End. He sold out and it was then operated by Waugh Bros. David Waugh was the West Lorne Manager for many years. Mr. Morden from Tryconnel moved in to Town and built a fine sawmill at the North End of Town. It was destroyed by fire and the late R. McFate built a Mill on the M. C. R. property at the West end of Town. Mr. McFate was the promoter of the First Public Library in West Lorne, which is still going strong and has its regular annual concert on Friday Nov. 9th. The first Planing Mill was started by James Leslie, father of Andrew Leslie, Building Superintendant on the M. C. R. He sold out to Campbell and Kirkpatrick. This mill was destroyed after a few years operations. Mr. John Campbell will be remembered as a Contractor and Builder who built many of the early dwellings here and Mr. Kirkpatrick afterwards was a grain buyer and West Lorne's first Insurance Agent. One of the first buildings erected in West Lorne was the Flour Mills. It was built by McKillop Brothers and John McCallum. All three of them were from the Brock Creek District and were playmates as boys. The first Mill had the old style

Mill-stones and turned out a fine grade of flour. The first Miller was Samuel Robinson, father of S. D. Robinson of Back St. The late Thomas E. Montague started a Bending Factory which was very successful. Mr. Montague was of an Inventive turn of mind and patented several machines which revolutionized some Bending Systems.

West Lorne was always strong on Athletic sports as she is to-day. Witness the trophy that S.S. No. 6 brought home for keeps the other day. The first Base Ball match that was played within the confines of West Lorne proper was played in 72 or 73. The Diamond was down back of David McDonald's home on Main St. and was played between Eagle and Dutton, Eagle team captained by the late C. M. Sinclair was an easy winner. In -74 was the first clash between Rodney and West Lorne and West Lorne won. In those days the Umpire carried an umbrella to keep off the sun and stationed himself away back from the Third Base line and judged Balls and Strikes from a distance. On first of July there used to be a great celebration, a Galithumpian procession in the morning and in the afternoon foot-racing and jumping. The first big doings of this nature was held in -72 but Wardsville Athletes the Freckeltons and Watterworths took most of the prizes home. The sport of Kings also figured in the early history of West Lorne so you see it seems natural that a West Lorne Colt, Billy Hugo, should be the champion pacer of Canada in 1934. The first horse races were held in -75 and there were purses for runners and trotters. The running races had 3 entries

and all good ones. Two were from the north owned by doughty Scots, who were neighbors but keen rivals on the turf, Messers P. McMillan and John McMurchy. The third entry was from the south owned by Mr. Grafton and very speedy but not built for a long gruelling race through the deep sand. The race was from McKillop's corners to Maple St. and Grafton's little gray lead each time until the knoll where the Baptist Church is and then the other two ran neck and neck to the finish. The McMurchy entry winning by a neck both heats.

The trotting races had more entries and they were permitted to race under saddle as well as with Sulky. Jake Wilson's Bay-mare was too fast for the others but 2nd place was strongly contested for by Joe. Schneckenburger's Fox-hunter and Angus Gillies' Tempest, the rest were no where. Of all that took part in the famous opening race only Joseph Schneckenburger is left and so we bring to a close this hasty glimpse at "WEST LORNE'S FIRST DECADE."

Written by

Mrs. John A. McKillop.