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"OLD TIME STUFF"

Reminiscences of the Ottawa of Earlier Days. Personages, Scenes and Incidents Recalled for Evening Citizen Readers

The feature story of this week's Old Time Stuff comes all the way from the far Pacific Coast. It is a volunteer contribution, as it were, and a very valuable one as it confirms much new matter), from an Ottawa man who now resides at New Westminster, B.C.—Mr. James Kennedy, ex-M.P., who was born in Kent street in 1844. Mr. Kennedy is related to the Kennedy family of Hartwart, Locks. A brother of Mr. Kennedy (the late George Kennedy) was a lawyer here in the station. He was senior partner of the law firm of Kennedy and Christie, who had offices in the Bangs block on Sparks street.

James B. Kennedy is a son of the late Donald Kennedy, a well-known cabinet-maker of Bytown. "J. B." of Ottawa fame in the West retains a strong man, went into the lumber business, made money, entered politics and was sent back to his old seat by the people of New Westminster to represent them in the Dominion House. As an M.P. he has been able to keep in touch with city well in recent years with Ottawa. Mr. Alex. Kennedy, of Cartwright's Locks, an uncle of Mr. B. Kennedy, is the father of Mrs. John MacMillan, of Ottawa, widow of the late Dr. John MacMillan, Robert Kennedy, of Ashton, is another uncle.

And now with this introduction the O. T. S. readers, let us hear from Mr. Kennedy. Here is the prelude to his important contribution to the story of the early days of Bytown. Mr. Kennedy writes:

245 Columbia St.,
New Westminster, B.C.

Editor of "Old Time Stuff."

Dear Sir: As a native son of Bytown I have been very much interested in the columns of "Old Time Stuff" that you have been giving us for some months past, and I have several times thought that I could add, and was do so, a few items that might interest some of the old residents. I was born on the 23rd of February, 1844, in an old house which stood on the east side of Kent street, on the lot now occupied by the residence of the late Jas. F. MacCarthy, the druggist.

(Signed) JAS. B. KENNEDY.

J. B. KENNEDY'S STORY OF EARLY BYTOWN DAYS.

Here is Mr. Kennedy's story:

My earliest recollections center around the neighborhood of Kent and Wellington streets. On the northeast corner there was a foundry and machine shop owned by Mr. Hinlelell, whose brother, Thos. M. Hindell, had a similar establishment on Wellington street, which is now occupied by the Fleck Bros. On the opposite corner of Kent street was a grocery store of good dimensions, kept by John Chitty, some of whose family are still in Ottawa. Joining Mr. Hinlelell's foundry was his residence—at that time a very pretty place, and next that a large house occupied by Pierce, a tailor, and then the house of Donald Kennedy of the firm of Smith & Kennedy, cabinet-makers, whose shop was on the corner of Kent and Victoria streets in a stone building now used as a residence. On the other side of Kent street there was a family of Lockwoods who kept horses for hire, and near the well-known Reuben Tracey, for many years court-crier, other residents I have forgotten the names of. Between Wellington and Fort streets, Victoria street ran, and on this street there were many houses, and the only ones I can recall are those of the Mr. Wilsons, Fords and Churches.

The Town Pumps.

On Kent street, near the St. Patrick's church, was an old well which supplied a large number of families with excellent water. It was an open well with an old oaken bucket worked by a crank and rolled chain, and certainly was a boon to those living near. I might add that many people were in the habit of calling Kent street by what is not very euphonious name of "Pump street." There were no pumps in Ottawa in those days, and pipes were to be seen in all directions.

On Wellington street the oldest store that I can remember anyone about was kept by Charles Carter, and later by a Mr. Jennings, and still later by H. P. Macpherson.

Edward McGillivray and J. McCarthy kept general stores, and G. R. Blyth a drygoods store, the north side of Wellington street near Bay street a man named Simon kept a grocery and liquor store. He was very corpulent and was by the name of John Bull.

Hard on J. B.

I lived in one of a row of stone houses near T. M. Hindell's foundry and in slippery weather I had to get help to keep his horses on his way to his store. On one occasion, some large-sized game along just as J. B. came out of his house, and the streets icy and slippery, so he grabbed a hold of one of the biggest hands him help to keep him on feet till he got to his place of business. For some time after that, poor boy went by the name of "Bull-Hard."

A Lefbreton Story.

Our family moved up to Lefbre's Flats in the late forties, and at that time there were some prominent residences. Col. Lefbre must have been a lover of men as he presented two city lots to a couple of little girls, Sophia, a daughter of Col. G. H. Lefbre, and Jessie Bruce. These were on Lloyd street and were built on. I never heard exactly how this came about, but I guess it to be a fact.

Only on the west side of Lloyd street were there any buildings. Sidney's was on the corner of the Lanes and in the late forties, and at time there were not many perman