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"OLD TIME STUFF"

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

Here is the story of Ottawa's first photographer, Joseph Lockwood, and incidentally of Miss Alvira Lockwood, who at the age of fourscore, on the death of her father, took up and successfully conducted the business for many years.

Mr. Lockwood passed away in 1913. That is a long time ago, but Miss Alvira Lockwood is with us yet, a most picturesque figure and a striking link with the past—a cheerful little body with a story worth the telling.

To most people in this modern city the names of Alvira Lockwood probably mean little or nothing. But there was a time, fifty years ago, when Miss Lockwood's name was a sort of household word. If the expression "self-made woman" can be applied to anybody, it can be applied to that spinster lady of this little person, who at over 75 years of age is still more than abreast of the times in a really remarkable manner. When the readers of the O.T.S. have finished this story, they will, we are sure, agree that Miss Alvira Lockwood is a credit both to the past and to the present. But we are using away from the story of Miss's first photographer.

When Lockwood Came.

Joseph Lockwood came to Bytown from Madrid, N.Y., in the early [illegible]. Miss Lockwood is not sure exact date. Prior to his arrival here, the latter had to go out their photos, or do without. [illegible] with [illegible] Mr. Lockwood was to [illegible] Mr. George [illegible] of Montreal. But after a [illegible] Mr. Martin returned to [illegible] where he worked up a big business of his own. Mr. Martin, besides being a photographer of parts, was a poet. After his return to Montreal he published a book of poems. With this statement, Mr. Martin leaves the story.

First Building Gone.

When Mr. Lockwood came to Ottawa he erected on rented land a frame photo studio and house, on Sparks street on the site of the present Egan block. At that time there was, of course, no post office building where the present P.O. building stands, and between Darling's bookstore and the canal on the north side there was nothing but Lockwood's studio. The Lockwood house stood on a high knoll and was quite conspicuous. After a few years, the late Mr. Henry Egan served notice on Mr. Lockwood that he wanted the land, so Mr. Lockwood moved to quarters over Scott's confectionery on the southwest corner of Sparks and Elgin streets.

Took Good Pictures.

Mr. Lockwood was a small delicate man with the true artistic temperament and an excellent photographer, as the present state of preservation of his early pictures proves.

Mr. Mr. Lockwood came to Bytown there were no photographs of the kind now in use. At that period the daguerreotype and the ambrotype were in use. The daguerreotype was made on a silver plate, under fumes of mercury process. The ambrotypes were taken on glass. Many of these early pictures were real works of art. People did not then get pictures by the dozen. They only got a few of a time, as pictures were rather expensive, costing about a dollar apiece, which was a lot of money then. Each picture was generally done up in a fancy case.

Girl's Courageous Act.

Well, in 1861, after getting the business nicely started, Mr. Lockwood took consumption and died in the early age of 40, leaving a family of 4, of whom Alvira, aged 11, was the eldest.

Ordinarily, under such circumstances the business would have been sold to strangers. But there is where the interesting part of the story comes in. Here we find a child aged 12, jumping into the breach and carrying on the business.

"You see it was this way," she told the O.T.S. staff, as her home at 345 Rideau street, "from the time I was seven years old I had always been around the studio. The house and the studio were together. Father had early taught me how to take the camera off the tripod, and I helped him in that way when he was taking pictures. In time I got to understand how to make the pictures. Of course at first after father died I did not take the pictures myself. But it was not long before I did, young as I was. At fifteen I was a full-time photographer.

First Tin-types.

Shortly after Mr. Lockwood died (in 1866, Miss Lockwood thinks it was) the tin-type made its appearance and became very popular, as the pictures could be very quickly turned out. Up to the early eighties that style of picture held vogue. Old timers and semi-old timers will remember how the showcases of the photographers in the seventies and early eighties used to be full of all sorts of tin-types.

Modern Photographs.

Then came the photograph as we know it today—but of course in a primitive form. The early photos were a sort of white-vanity looking production. The cards were small in size and were not nearly as artistic as the older ambrotypes.

Miss Lockwood continued the business in her own name till about 25 or 30 years ago. She did not go out of business even then because of competition or anything of that sort, but because she desired a better separation for her artistic nature.

Took All Celebrities.

Before proceeding with the interesting story of that rather unique little person, Alvira Lockwood, it might be told that when she retired from business she had no-less than 12,000 negatives of modern photos. But this large number of plates did not represent all the pictures she had taken, as she had also made thousands of tin-types, and many ambrotypes. Miss Lockwood does not know what became of all the negatives, but she presumes they eventually were thrown out by the next tenant, who was not a photographer.

Off to Paris.

Suddenly the scene changes to Paris. In 1882, becoming obsessed with a desire to paint (she had always had a leaning that way), Miss Lockwood crossed the seas and went to New York, where she spent a few months under one of the best of the New York art instructors—and then to Paris. It should be explained that previous to this—about 1871—Mrs. Lockwood had returned to Madrid to the old homestead. In 1879 Miss Lockwood built a double tenement house on Rideau street. A year later it was burned down. In order to keep her mother's refugees was one of an electric oven (the invention of Mr. T. Ahearn), which created a great deal of sensation at the Central Canada Fair of 1879—twenty-one years ago. This article is to elaborate as this remarkable oven is the only one the first electric oven the world had ever seen. The oven which Mr. A. invented by Mr. Thos. Ahearn (who is today one of the leading electrical inventors and experts of this continent) had a place in the Lock building. The oven had a brick, lining, chimney and all the inside and had heavy plate glass windows at one end, through which the people could see the biscuits and other pastry being cooked in the heat from electric coils. The interior was fitted up by a local member of electric league.

Thousands Saw It.

Thousands hung around the electric oil and looked at a staff of white uniformed bakers was kept busy baking fancy cakes and pastries per. The novelty made a great hit.

Mr. Ahearn's oven was the first to be used in the cool September days by subscribers to the water mains, was electrically heated in a hotwater furnace. The electricity generated by Mr. Ahearn, was one of the first practical demonstrations which the people as a whole had had of the electrical application of water power as shown by the utilization of the energy of falling water, to do work without this way. The wiring of the Chaudiere was turned on the great turbine wheels at the Ottawa Electric power house, which in turn drove the dynamos which made electric energy, which was transmitted to the Exhibition Grounds, and made possible the electric heating of food, the heating of water for radiators, and the power for motors.

Gave Him Gold Medal.

The Central Canada Fair directors gave Mr. Ahearn a gold medal for his invention, which had been patented the fall of that year. That they presented him with a special gold medal, specially struck for him is best with shown.

Shortly before the exhibition, the late Samuel Insoles, who was then proprietor of the Ottawa Hotel, called at Mr. Ahearn's invention and secured the idea of placing an electrically cooked complimentary dinner in the hotel for distinguished citizens. An electric oven was installed in the hotel kitchen, and a complete dinner, from soup down to dessert, was cooked in the electric oven. A portion of the menu card, used on that occasion is now in the possession. The dinner was voted a success.

Ahead of Time.

It might naturally be assumed that an invention of such a great value would have made a great deal of money for Mr. Ahearn and his partner Mr. Soper. But sometimes inventions, like people, are ahead of their time. So it happened in this case. Messrs. Ahearn and Soper made a flattering offer of the patent rights to the American Heating Company, but the latter company, after considerable money trying to get the thing to work, gave it up as a practical success. The company finally went into bankruptcy. Mr. Ahearn followed up his idea and successfully equipped all the cottages on the Ottawa Driving Park with electric heating system with heaters. They have been in operation for a number of thirty years. Before that, coal stoves were used.

SOME FACTS ABOUT THE OTTAWA CHORAL UNION.

Mr. H. H. Kenny has handed the O.T.S. an interesting short account of the musical efforts of the old Choral Union, which, it seems, was established in 1874 and which did much to promote a healthy musical welfare of the Capital. The reminder was sent in by Mr. Kenny in the form of a program used on the occasion of the Choral Union's first concert, which was given February 14, 1878, under the direction of Prof. Dart of Dufferin. Strange to say, the program, which is a souvenir of the concert was held. But that is only a matter of detail. The chief value of the program is that it tells us something about the character of the Choral Society music of 50 years ago, and also about the people who did their share at that time towards encouraging a taste for classical music.

The conductor of the society pro Mr. Fred W. Mills, and the executive committee consisted of Messrs. Douglas Brymner, Thos. Kirby, Robert Bryson, J. Cunningham, Stewart, Fredk. J. Braun, J. H. Plummer and R. Kennedy, Sec.-Treasurer).

The Active Members.

Here is a list of the active members, practically the whole membership in the second annual concert in 1878:

Orchestra—Joseph Audrey, James Brown, James Hamilton, Miss Elliott, Wm. Ferguson, Michael Galvin, Miss Gowan, F. W. Harmer, Mr. Hanley, Miss Hutchinson, Thos. Kirby, Marley, H. Machinale, Thos. A. Pierce, John Stevens, Frank Stevens, Miss Wickstead.

Sopranos—Miss Berry, Miss Billings, Miss E. Billings, Miss Bishop, Miss M. Bishop, Mrs. W. G. Black, Miss F. J. Braun, Miss Brough, Miss Burke, Miss Chesley, Miss C. Chesley, Miss L. Chesley, Miss Christie, Miss M. Christie.

Mrs. Duck, Miss Drummond, Misses J. and K. Drummond, Mrs. Elwood, Miss E. Elwood, Miss Grant, Miss Hartley, Miss Higgins, Miss C. E. Humphrys, Miss Kennedy, Mrs. K. Kennedy, Mrs. Kirby, Miss A. Kirby, Miss Layton, Miss Lewis.

Miss Lockwood, Miss MacMaster, Miss Maslin, Miss Mason, Mrs. Moore, Miss McAuley, Miss McLaughlin, Miss E. McLaughlin, Miss Nicholson, Miss Oliver, Miss Orme, Miss Percival, Miss Pope, Mrs. Rannie, Miss Read, Miss Rerbidge, Mrs. P. E. Shepard, Miss Simpson, Miss Sparks, Steele, Mrs. Wilson, Miss Wilson, Miss Wright, Miss F. Wright.

Gentlemen—A. Allan, T. A. Beckett, Thos. Black, C. Blackmore, W. G. Blyth, R. Brewer, D. Brymner, W. Brymner, W. Campbell, W. Carter, G. R. Cochrane, F. B. Douglas, H. G. Dunlevie, J. Garland, E. Gingras, F. Gourdeau, D. A. Grant, E. Heflamore, W. H. Holland, R. Humphrys, J. M. Johnson, R. H. Kenny, T. W. Kennyn, A. Macdonald, T. Morton, J. S. Mix, J. Mogbeeill, R. D. Mulvey, R. McLaughlin, N. Mclean, Robt. Mc-Lachlin, Wm. Mclean, Robt. Mc-Lachlin, Wm. Mclean, Robt. Mc-Lachlin, Wm