

The Office Window

Canada's 100th birthday passed very quietly in Bradford, with almost the only indication of a special day being the heralding by church bells at midnight. . . . Bond Head did the celebrating for this district, and the people out there did it well, with a really fine parade, while over in Beeton the ball tournament, left over from the Beeton-Tecumseth celebrations, kept things lively over there at the weekend. . . . But before the day was over we learned that at least in one heart there lingered nostalgic memories of Bradford. Our phone rang and Winnipeg, Manitoba, was calling the editor of the Bradford Witness. A lady's voice said, "Centennial Greetings to Bradford", and continued by explaining who she was, and her relationship to the Bradford of a century ago. . . . In our recordings of by-gone years in Bradford, the name of Dowler's store has been mentioned upon several occasions, therefore when the lady said that she was a daughter of the James Dowler who opened a general store here in 1867, we had her placed, and this being the Centennial anniversary of the opening of that store, there seemed to be something very wonderful in hearing a voice representing, or, possibly more correctly speaking for the father who established that store a century ago, extending Centennial greetings to Bradford. The lady is Mrs. Kathleen Dowler Riter, 220 Lanark Street, Winnipeg, and her father, James Dowler came first to Toronto from Ireland in 1864, where he worked at Murray's for three

years before going into business for himself here, and where he knew the late Timothy Eaton, whose store was opened shortly after the Dowler store here which, as everyone knows, grew, as the store in Bradford did not. James Dowler had merchant brothers whose businesses were located in Beeton, Sutton and St. Thomas. The father of our caller remained in business here until 1883, and she mentioned and enquired regarding such families as the Broughtons, Lukes, Sinclairs and the Cerswells at Bond Head, and then, with realization that a phone call from Winnipeg to Bradford has limitations, she assured that she would follow up the conversation with a letter, which on this Centennial year, may prove to be quite an interest. . . . We had another phone call which we feel deserves publicity. You will recall the story in last week's issue, "Pioneering On The Holland Marsh", and copied from The Grower. Miss Dorothy Cilipka, BDHS graduate, now employed in Toronto, called to tell us that the story was hers, and that she wrote it from information obtained from various sources, including a visit with Bill Day, son of the late Professor W. H. Day. We reminded Miss Cilipka that The Grower had not credited her with the story, and she was quite aware of that, and found the omission of the credit not understandable, but she did wish her home town newspaper to know that the story was hers. . . . Some weeks ago The Witness published Miss Cilipka's story about Holland Landing, giving her credit, of course, for her fine effort, and her Pioneering on the Holland Marsh was an equally splendid

effort. Miss Cilipka has a keen interest in the history of her province and writes exceptionally well. We hope to hear from her again.

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