

It is common knowledge that Lindsay has been blessed with having a number of newspapers in years gone by, but few are aware that at one time three papers were published the Post, the Watchman, and the Free Press.

The latter publication operated from a store at the foot of Kent Street, now owned by the I.G.A., and Walter McNaulty was editor.

Neither is it common knowledge that E. D. Hand, a diminutive gentleman, was the first owner of a newspaper in Lindsay. It was known as the Advocate.

Mr. Hand was industrious, a born newspaper man, particularly linked with the development of Fenelon Falls.

In the early days there was not a better known or more respected publisher than E. D. Hand. He was born in England, and came to Canada when only 19 years of age. He worked in Port Hope for a couple of years before entering the office of the Port Hope Guide.

After remaining with the Guide for two or three years he moved to Lindsay and established the first newspaper Lindsay could boast of, the Advocate.

Some eleven years later he founded "The Independent" at Bobcaygeon and he remained there for two years when he disposed of the plant to Charles Stewart.

Mr. Hand then moved to Fenelon Falls and started the Gazette. He was always found to be working for the cause of humanity and the betterment of his fellow men.

He toiled in the pioneer days when the proprietor of a newspaper was also the reporter, the type-setter, the circulation manager, the advertising manager, and the business manager. That was in the time when the hours were long and the pay was short.

Mr. Hand died at the advanced age of 87. He was the father of three sons who were also dedicated newspaper men and for a time they operated the Peterboro Review.

John Hand was the first man in Victoria County to run on the C.C.F. ticket.

It is interesting to note that the oldest file of the Fenelon Falls Gazette dates back to June 26, 1880, and the advertisers included Moffat and McFarland grocers and bakery; Jarvis and McDougall, dry goods and clothing; John Kirk, watchmaker; Robson and Robson, Cameron Lake Foundry; Mrs. Heeley, millinery and fancy goods; S. Brokenshire, pump works; James Agnew, boots and shoes; Jos. Heard, hatware; Howard Fleming, hardware; McDougall and Brandon, groceries etc.; G. C. Keith, general store; E. Fitzgerald, drugs; A. Lalibertie, tailor; L. Deyman, furniture and undertaker; Wm. Campbell, millinery and dry goods; John Nugent, drugs; Jos. Nevicon, harness shop; George H. Bertram, hardware, Kennedy and Newman, dry-goods; Dr. A. W. Wilson; Dr W. G. Bryson; McArthur House Robert Rutherford, prop.; Jas. J. Power, auctioneer; Jas. Dixon, surveyor; and John Slater, watchmaker.

The wrought iron bridge across the Falls was built in 1881 by the Toronto Iron

Bridge. It was 205 feet long and the contract price was \$4,931.85.

The Mowry mill was burned in 1881 in July. In September wheat sold for \$1.30 per bushel, and buyers were lined up as far as the head of Colborne Street to meet incoming farmers. This was in 1881. In the same year a bank was opened by Dennison, Westcott and Company. It was closed in July 1882 due to lack of business.

The first sod for the Trent Valley Canal was turned at Fenelon Falls in 1882. Work was completed in October 1885.

The Scott and Henry (Napanee) pulp mill was a going concern in the year 1884 and was located between the railway tracks and Cameron Lake at the west end of Francis Street.

In 1884 a fire laid low all the business buildings between Bond and Francis Streets. The buildings were frame except for Crandell's Hotel at the corner of Bond Street, where the fire started, and the brick block on Colborne Street owned by Kennedy and Newman.