

A newspaper clipping to hand recalls the days when voters took an active part in municipal elections, when nomination meetings overflowed in the Town Hall and when electors had the opportunity of "sizing up" a number of aspirants for various offices. The item refers to the late James B. Begg who won a number of elections including a two year term as mayor and the same gentleman was quite active in the Liberal political arena. He failed to be elected as a candidate for the Federal House, but in this respect he was not alone as for many years the Tory party held sway in local elections.

The late Senator George McHugh, a farmer from South Ops, was one of the few to enter Parliament under the Liberal banner. Other staunch Liberals who fought valiantly included: Thomas Stewart, a barrister; R. J. McLaughlin, a barrister; A. M. Fulton, barrister and T. J. Carley of Fenelon Falls, also a barrister; Foster Graham, dental surgeon, of Fenelon Falls and many years previous a Dr. McKay of Woodville.

In this connection it is interesting to relate that another very popular candidate on the Liberal ticket was C. E. Weeks, a barrister from Woodville who in later years became widely known in the area as one of the key men in the Victoria Trust Company and he in turn was followed as General Manager by his son Mr. George Weeks.

Jas. B. Begg was for many years engaged in the Soda Water Works with a manufacturing plant located on Peel Street, east of Victoria Avenue. In fraternal circles Mr. Begg was Ruling Master of Faithful Brethern Masonic Lodge and he is credited with having been the founder of Gothic Masonic Lodge.

In the business world Mr. Begg was for many years associated with the Victoria Trust Company. Other activities of this community minded gentleman included his long association with the Lindsay Central Exhibition as a Director and as President.

Many years ago the Begg family was well known in Lindsay. Mr. Fred Begg served for several years as a Clerk in the drygoods store operated by Duncan Ray and later by E. E. W. McGaffey. He followed a number of young Lindsay men by going to the Pacific coast and settling in Vancouver, B. C. where he gained local renown as a distributor for General Motors. In this connection he was recognized as one of the largest dealers in Western Canada and at one time his operation and buildings covered an entire block.

No doubt several readers of today remember Herb Begg, a son of J. B. Begg, who was actively engaged in the motor car business with his uncle in Vancouver.

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There is an old saying "that mistakes will happen in the best of regulated families" and perhaps it can also be said that mistakes occur in relating historical facts regarding Lindsay and district. A few days ago the writer had his knuckles politely wrapped by a regular reader, Mr. E. W. Calvert, RR2, Lindsay. The welcome letter reads as follows "County historians persist in the assertion that the Purdy's were here and in business years before they were in actuality. This so called record is mere fiction. My grandfather, Samuel

Parkin, employed by the Duke of Rutland in Nottingham, settled here in 1829 and there were no neighbors but Indians. He was the third settler in Ops, the first being Thos. Connell.

Grist first had to be taken to Port Hope and for many years afterwards to Omemee. Would they do this if there had been a grist mill at Lindsay? The Dunns, further north, went to Port Hope on horseback with the grist.

Your statement that they settled in 1827 and began business in 1830 is thus refuted. My grandfather settled approximately two miles above the town, land fronting on the river of course, and an uncle of mine lost his life when he was only twelve years old in a trip to Port Hope. It was not known for certain th