



On The Main Street

Sept. 17/17

The capital letter "B" figured largely in the names of the builders of the town of Lindsay. C. L. Baker built a frame house on the north-west corner of William and Peel Streets which later became the home of the Orange Order. He then apparently built the big brick business block at the corner of Kent and Cambridge Streets, as well as the large brick building on Cambridge Street, now the home and place of business of George McCombe, billiard and pool room. The latter building was used as an abattoir and later as a wholesale grocery warehouse. A member of the family, Miss

M. R. Baker, operated a very successful business college in the corner building. A progressive business man named C. S. Blackwell ran a grocery store at Kent and Cambridge Streets for many years.

Another of the capital "B" family was Thos. Beall, the jeweller, who was followed by his son G. G. Beall, and the latter's son, G. W. Beall. The three "B's" were builders on Kent Street when the mud was at times several inches deep.

Others in the "B" category as builders included Jas B. Begg, operator of the Begg Soda Water Works and a former mayor of Lindsay; also

another "B" in the person of R. B. Beal, who was a manufacturer of leather and leather goods, and mayor of Lindsay. Another in the "B" list was G.H.M. Baker, owner of the Baker Lumber Company with office and yard at the corner of Lindsay and King Streets. Another "B" was the first operator of an opera house in Lindsay, Fred Burke, when the opera house was in the top storey of the present town hall.

Another "B" in the long ago era was Thos. Bell, police chief who ended his duties as law enforcement officer for the Grand Trunk Railway Company in the Union station in Toronto.

Years ago the Begley family was prominent and highly respected, especially T. J. Begley as Editor of the Daily Post.

Naturally there were two or three families by the name of Brown and one was Allie Brown, bandmaster and another was Jos. Brown, a hard working grocer and a prominent and stalwart member of the Orange Order. Jos. A.

Brown, implement agent and lover of show horses was also a town councillor. Harry Brown, well known in the printing fraternity was also an officer in the Orange Order.

Delving further back in the "B" list was a former editor of the Evening Post, C. D. Barr, who became county registrar.

History records that Obdiah Bigelow was a builder in Lindsay and lived in a house on Bond Street, a white frame dwelling which was moved several years ago to the lot on the east side of the street, next to the Baptist Church.

Away back in the history of the Lindsay waterworks department was a gentleman named Bigbie and at the same time a Dr. P. Palmer Burrows was writing a number of letters to the Editor of the Post and he was a flourishing "find faultler" and "builder-upper".

A man named Berry was a harnessmaker and another "B" was Tony Bakogorge, founder of the Olympia Tea Room.

The "B's" played a large part in the growth of Lindsay.