

Newspaper Editors claim that names make news. In thirteen short months, villages, towns and cities across the broad expanse of Canada will be projecting names of many people linked with Canada's historic past as centennial celebrations will be in full swing.

An active churchman mentioned to "Main Street" a few days ago that the different church denominations will be among the first to concentrate on observing the centennial and he added "Church going people in the old days did a great deal for Lindsay, especially in the trials and tribulations they underwent in building Churches — right now I think of St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church which celebrated its one hundredth birthday several months ago. The event was observed by holding special services, but little was said regarding the history of the Church and its people.

A lot was secured on the south corner of what is now Russell and Lindsay streets. This was then the eastern limit of the Town site. Kent Street was being chopped out for the first time. No other streets were cleared, and the church lay in a dense impenetrable swamp of spruce and cedar. In the Autumn of 1840 Patrick Brady and Peter Tully were given the privilege of felling the first tree. The site was cleared during the winter and all the timber necessary for building was cut and prepared on the ground.

In the Spring of 1841 a bee was held and the Church raised. The corner men were Patrick McHugh, James Pyne, Thos. Hoey and James Walker. The main log building forty feet long by twenty-eight feet wide, was put up in ten days. The roof was put on by Thos. Vaughan, who worked at Purdy's Mill. The shingles were made by hand on Peter Green's farm by Owen Carlin, Donald Malady, Thos. Hoey, Terence, Patrick and Michael Brady and Peter Greenan, and when the work of shingling began more men crowded on the roof than could stay there. Window sashes were made by Richard and Michael Lebigan. Then as no nails, glass or putty could be bought nearer than Port Hope Nicholas Connolly and Patrick Leddy went around the Parish and collected some thirty bushels of wheat. They took this over the bus trail to Port Hope, sold it, and returned with needy supplies.

The lime to plaster the crevices between the logs of the church was made of course-hewn, two-inch planks laid down on log joists. The alter was built of rough boards. The door was made by Dominic McBride and the hinges and latch by John Cunningham. There were however, two galleries of four pews each, one on each side and an end gallery built by Thos. Keenan and Thos. Spratt for their own use.

The first Mass was said Nov. 1, 1841. In the following year the building and the church narrowly escaped destruction. A fiddle was the only musical instrument and it is recorded that the Gillogly family supplied the vocal music.

Meanwhile a Rectory was built at Father Fitzpatrick's

own expense. This was on a lot bought by him from the Government on the north-west corner of Lindsay and Russell Streets. Dominic McBride had contracted for its construction but after putting up the frame in 1841 he failed to carry it any further. W. Thatcher finished it in December 1841.

The present Rectory on the north side of Russell Street east was conveyed to the Church by Jon Knowlson in 1873.

Father Fitzpatrick conducted missions at Downeyville, King's Wharf and Bobcaygeon.

In 1855 plans were drawn up for a new Church. Pine was brought down river by a man named Page. The contract for the new Church, 100 by 50 was let to a Mr. Alexander of Port Hope.

James Murphy was sent to Toronto by wagon and team to secure a wagon load of material. He drove from Toronto and back from sun up till sun-down in one day. The first Mass was said on Christmas day in 1859. Mr. Devlin organized a choir. Mr. C. L. Baker installed the first organ as a gift to the church. Miss O'Connell was the first organist.

Two bells weighing 2,800 pounds were installed in 1884 and the rectory was enlarged in 1894. In 1897 a large building on the church property which was the home of the Keenan family was bought and converted into a parish hall at a cost of \$4,000.