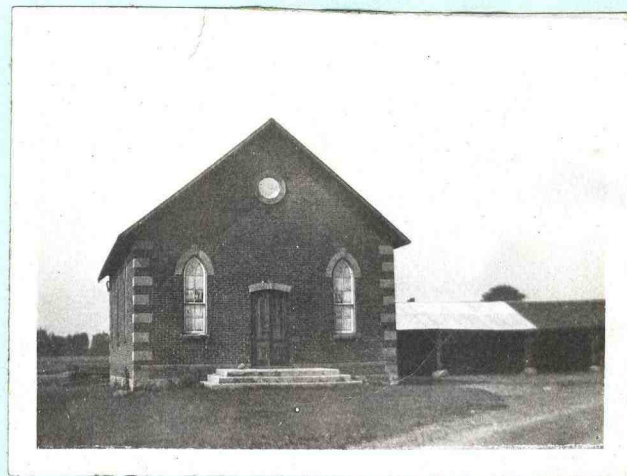


NORTH HALL CHURCH (Cont'd)

church site. It was decided to accept the offer of Mr. Charles Laister of Tillsonburg for \$125 cash for the building subject to the consent of the Elgin Presbytery. The tender of Earl Greer for the church site at \$42 was accepted. A committee was appointed to dispose of the furnishings of the interior of the church. This was done by holding an auction at the church. The proceeds of the church, property and furnishings was to be used for the improvement of church property on the other appointments of the former Corinth charge. Soon the dismantling and tearing down of the church began and the change of times went on, but the memories of the old church are cherished in the hearts of all who had attended there.



Donated by Miss C. Berry

Pastors of North Hall Church

Bayham-Richmond - 13

- 1856-57 - Rev. Thomas Rump
- 1858-59 - Rev. Benjamin Haigh
- 1860-61 - Rev. James Baskerville
- 1862-64 - Rev. Orren Whitcomb
- 1865-66 - Rev. William Webb
- 1867-69 - Rev. Edward Brown
- 1870-72 - Rev. James B. Goodspeed

Circuit changed to Straffordville

- 1873-75 - Rev. John Elliot
- 1876-77 - Rev. William Turner
- 1877-79 - Rev. Francis E. Nugent
- 1880-82 - Rev. James Gundy
- 1883-85 - Rev. James Gundy
- 1886 - Rev. E. L. Clement
- 1887-89 - Rev. J. G. Yelland
- 1890 - Rev. James B. Kennedy
- 1891-93 - Rev. L. W. Wickett
- 1894-96 - Rev. Edwin Fesant
- 1897-99 - Rev. Byron Snell
- 1900-1903 - Rev. J. J. Haylock
- 1904-1905 - Rev. Alex Devar
- 1906-1908 - Rev. Mr. Munday

NorthHall transferred to Corinth

- June 1909 - Rev. R. A. Millar
- 1910 - Rev. J. Hart
- 1911 - 1914 - Rev. James Elford
- 1915 - 1918 - Rev. L. C. McRoberts
- 1919 - 1920 - Rev. William Fagan
- 1921 - 1925 - Rev. David Whaley
- 1925 - 1927 - Rev. P. E. James
- 1925 - Rev. A. R. Kellam

Information obtained from Miss C. Berry and United Church Archives.



Miss Christina Berry

Donated by Mrs. Florence Harper



Christina Berry's home

CORINTH UNITED CHURCH

The earliest records tell there were two Methodist Churches in Corinth. One was the Moss Church located at the end of the 10th concession on the north side of the road. This was known as the Benson Chapel or Moss Church. The exact date this was built is not known. They purchased the land for the Firby Cemetery from Thomas Firby in 1855. Tombstones there show there were burials as early as 1850. In 1850, this church was part of the Malahide circuit, including Vienna and Straffordville. The ministers in charge of this circuit were Samuel Philp and John English and in 1851 George Kennedy and Thomas Peacock.

The trustees of the Benson Chapel in 1855 were Hiram Moss, Joseph Firby, George Silverthorn, William Kipp Jr., John Medcalf, Samuel McKenney and Thomas Cascadden.

This was a Wesleyan Methodist Church.

In 1884 the Methodist Church of Canada was formed uniting the Primitive Methodist, the Methodist Episcopal and the Bible Christian Churches. Therefore it is presumed that when the present United Church in the village was built in 1880 that the Moss Church then was not used any more. The old church then was moved south and became the manufacturing room for the Cheese Factory north of the Firby Cemetery. When the factory was no longer used it was torn down by a carpenter from Brownsville.

In 1873 contributors to the Missionary Fund were the Freeman family, R. Firby, John Hardwick, Thomas Cascadden, Alberty McKinney, and Miss Moss.

In 1874 about the same names appear, but in 1875 many of the same names are listed under Corinth, then a part of the Brownsville charge. The Church Archives state that the Brownsville charge included Brownsville, Bayham, McDowells, Culloden and Dereham Centre.

The ministers of the Brownsville charge are as follows:

- 1875 John Saunders, Charles C. Couzens
- 1876 John Saunders, William French
- 1877 William Birks, James H. Hazlewood
- 1878 William Birks, John H. Bennett
- 1879 William Birks

- 1880 Thomas W. Jackson, James W. Sifton
- 1881 Thomas W. Jackson, Ezra Burkholder
- 1882 Thomas W. Jackson, John Kirkland
- 1883 Walter Rigsby, Henry Irvine
- 1884 Walter Rigsby, Richard T. Hamilton
- 1885 Walter Rigsby, S.W. Muxworthy
- 1886 Thomas Crews, Herber Crews
- 1887 Thomas Crews, Reuben J. Garbutt
- 1888 Thomas Crews, Reuben J. Garbutt
- 1889 George Jackson, C.W. Brown
- 1890 George Jackson, R. Whiting
- 1891 George Jackson, John Morrison
- 1892 J. Veale, T.H. Down
- 1893 J. Veale, G.M. Hazen
- 1894 W.G.H. McAllister, Byron Snell
- 1895 W.G.H. McAllister, A. Alexander

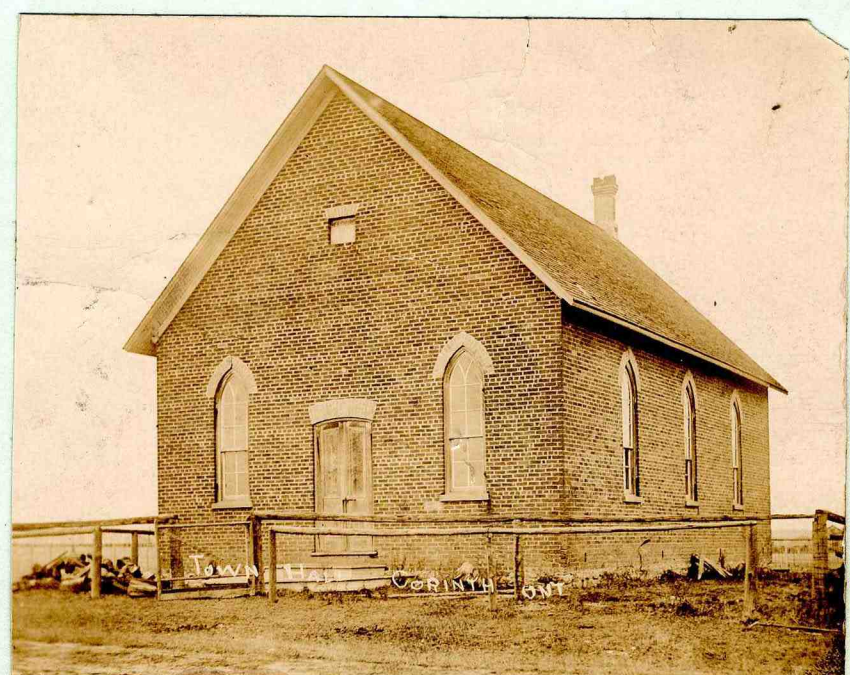
In 1896 Corinth was taken off of the Brownsville charge.

Contributors to the Missionary Fund in 1875-76 were Miss E. McKinney, Amanda Crane, Jacob Pound, J. Hardwick, C. Summers, Thomas M. Firby, Thomas Firby, I. Sivyer, Kate Harrison.

In 1877 this Moss Church was part of the Vienna and Straffordville circuit. These names have been recorded as donors to the Missionary Fund in that year-

- Thomas Weaver
- Peter Hemingway
- J. Smith
- G. Marr
- John White
- J. Firby
- N. Cascadden
- Mary Conner
- R. Dalrymple

The other early church in Corinth was just north of the four corners known as Jones Corners and was on the east side of the road. It was a red brick building and



Christian Brethern/Methodist Episcopal  
Donated by Miss Freda Pressey

first was a church of the Christian Brethern and later Methodist Episcopal.

It is presumed that this church and the Moss Church joined together when the United Church was built in 1880 on the present sight. No information has been obtained about the building of this church. This same Methodist Episcopal church building north of the village was used as a hall for many years after being closed, and, on occasions was also used for holding court cases in this area. Court sessions were held annually in the fall. The first Crown Attorney was A. McKrimmon and the first Judge, Squire Hunt followed by Mr. Maxwell. They came out from St. Thomas in the morning on the train. This building was torn down by Charles Laister of Tillsonburg around 1935.

After Corinth was taken of the Brownsville charge it was put on a circuit with North Bayham and North Hall. The ministers on this charge from 1896 to 1925 were:

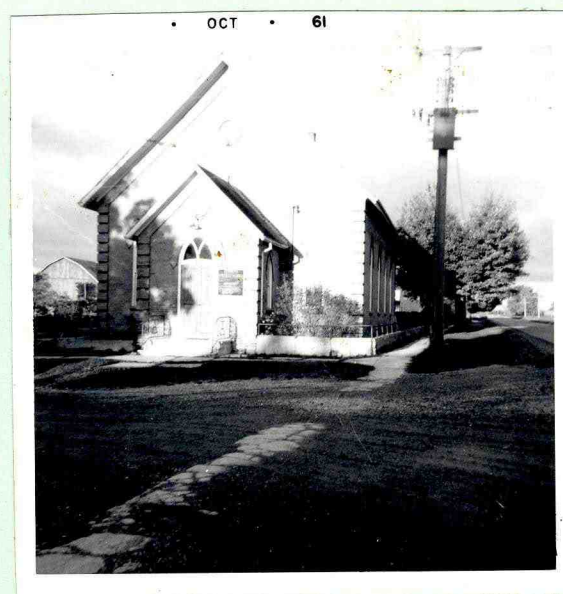
1896 - Rev. Edwin Fesant  
 1897-99 - Rev. Byron Snell  
 1900-1903- Rev. J. J. Haylock  
 1904-1905- Rev. Alex Devar  
 1906-08 - Rev. Mr. Munday  
 1909 - Rev. R. A. Millar  
 1910 - Rev. J. Hart  
 1911-1914- Rev. James Elford  
 1915-1918- Rev. L. C. McRoberts  
 1919-1920- Rev. William Fagan  
 1921-1925- Rev. David Whaley  
 1925-1927- Rev. P. E. James  
 1925 - Rev. A. R. Kellam  
 (no date) -Rev. F. E. Davies

The North Hall church was closed in 1935 and and Corinth was then put on the Richmond circuit including North Bayham, Richmond, Sommers Corners, and Fairview. In 1934, the church shed at North Hall was torn down and added to the Corinth shed. The Corinth shed was sold in the year 19 - 19 . Reverend Leslie was minister on the charge at the time of this change of circuit. The ministers on the Richmond charge from 1934 to 1964 were:

1934-1936 - Rev. C. W. Leslie  
 Ass'ts. - James L. Blair  
           - G. W. Downs  
 1936-1939 - Rev. C. C. Strachan  
 Ass'ts - G. W. Down  
           - George A. Barnard  
           - R. Smith Baker  
           - Aubrey Edworthy  
 1940 - J. L. Foster  
 1941-1947 - H. E. Wright (Rev.)  
 Ass'ts - Gordon Pickell  
           - Robt. Thompson  
           - Donald Handford  
 1947-1955 - J. N. Gould (Rev.)  
 Ass't - Rev. C. C. Strachan

1955-1958 - Rev. A. M. Mason  
 1958-1961 - Dwight E. Hinton  
 Ass't. - F. Earl Norton  
 1961-1964 - Rev. K. B. Passmore  
 Ass't - F. Earl Norton

In the spring of 1963 it was decided to build a fellowship room on the back of the church to be used for Sunday School rooms, choir practise and meeting place for various church organizations. Rev. K. B. Passmore was the minister. Sam Eicher laid the brick but most of the other work was done by volunteer labor. The members of the United Church Women did the painting. Cupboards in the kitchen were built by Mr. Passmore, assisted by Clifford Smith. Much of the kitchen equipment was donated by interested people. A piano was donated by Mrs. M. Holebrook. This building provided 700 square feet of floor space. This



Corinth United Church 1961  
 Donated by Mrs. Doug. Falkins

building was dedicated on October 7, 1963. in honor of Rev. and Mrs. J. N. Gould, Aylmer who served as pastor on the charge from 1944 to 1955. The Building was named The Gould Fellowship Hall. Guest speaker at this service was Rev. Anne P. Graham of London and the dedication service was in charge of Rev. L. C. Coates, St. Thomas, chairman of the Elgin Presbytery.

Changes in the circuit again became inevitable and on June 28, 1964, a combined service of the five churches on the charge was held outdoors at Richmond. This service marked two changes:-

- Corinth was changed to the Springfield Circuit made up of Springfield, North Bayham, and Corinth.
- this was the final service of this old circuit conducted by Rev. K. B. Passmore, who was to leave to take a church in London.

The Parsonage had to be listed for sale,  
and on July 3, and auction was held of

154  
the furnishings of the parsonage. The  
parsonage was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Leo Smith,  
Corinth.



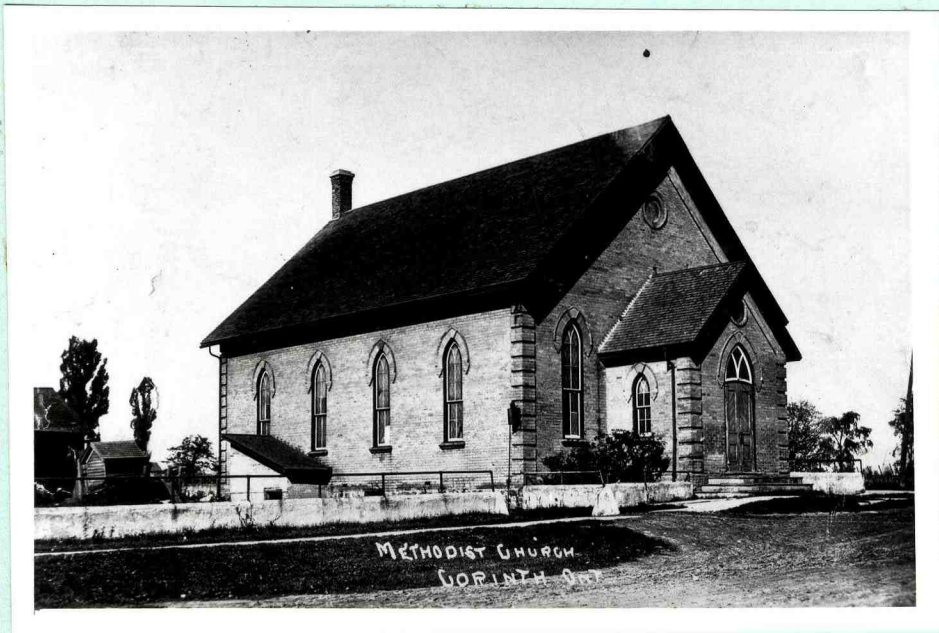
1963 Addition To Church  
Donated by Mrs. Douglas Falkins



**ATTEND DEDICATION**—A new fellowship room, added at the rear of the Corinth United Church, was dedicated during a special service held Sunday afternoon. Those seen above played a prominent part in the service. Left to right: Rev. K. Barry Passmore, the pastor; Douglas Rabbets, chairman

of the building committee; Rev. and Mrs. J. N. Gould, Aylmer, in whose honor the room was dedicated; Rev. Anne P. Graham, London, associate minister at Metropolitan United Church, guest speaker, and Rev. Lloyd J. Coates, St. Thomas, chairman of Elgin Presbytery, who conducted the service of dedication.—(T. J. Aylmer Bureau Photo)

Rev. K. Barry Passmore finished his ministry here in 1964. Rev. Harry M. McDougall was here for two years. Wm. Zeigler, Student Minister was here until June 1971. Rev. Cecil Jardine became our minister in July, 1971



Corinth Methodist Church  
About 1980



Rev. & Mrs. Hinton  
June, 1961



Mrs. Zelpha Pressey's retirement from  
President of W.A. June, 1961