

REORGANIZED CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS

The Corinth Branch was organized on October 29, 1876. Brother Christopher Pearson was elected the first pastor and the enrollment was twelve members. From then until the Church was built in 1883 various homes were used for meetings. Preaching services, Prayer Meetings and business meetings were held in the homes. Some of the homes mentioned for these meetings were Brother Christopher Pearson, William Jenkins, and Thomas Bearss. Other homes may have been used as well.

On July 25, 1882 a committee was formed which was to consider the possibility of buying a building from Brother William Jenkins for the sum of \$100. On August 2, 1882 a second meeting was held and the committee reported that they thought it was not advisable to purchase this building. The committee was discharged. The same day a new committee was appointed to build a church, plans and estimates given at this same meeting. The land for the building was donated by Brother William Jenkins. The building was under construction by December and at the end of January 1883 a meeting was held to arrange for completing the church and holding a Conference at the dedication. In February 1883 the building committee was authorized to borrow money to finish the Church. On June 19, 1883 the Saints met in the Church and moved to deed the land and building to the General Church.

On June 25, the Branch moved to insure the Church.

On October 1887 the balance of the note was paid off and the church was cleared of debt.

In February 1889 a fence was built from the front corners of the lot to the corners of the church. About the same time frosted windows were put in the church but these at some later time were replaced with clear glass. Again during the pastorate of Elder H. Marshall frosted glass was again put in the windows. A brick chimney was built on the church in October 1894. In July 1908 a committee was elected to repair the church. They raised and blocked the church and put on a galvanized roof. In the year 1948 the Women's Department planted evergreens around the Church, and also some along the fences for wind breaks. In 1953 the pews were refinished, the swinging doors at the entrance were covered with plywood and a windbreak of plywood was built at the back. A bookcase was donated by Elder Marshall to be used as a Branch Library. In 1954 the Church walls were redecorated. In 1955 the cement steps were replaced by wooden steps and some spiral balances were put on some windows to make better ventilation possible. An oil heater was purchased and installed to replace the coal stove. The outside of the building was painted by the men of the Church. Each year for several years about \$30 worth of books have been added to the library.

Church School was first organized on February 13, 1889. William Jenkins was Superintendent and Thomas Bearss secretary and S. Pearson treasurer.

The Women's Department was organized on January 3, 1927. Sister Ella Borbridge was elected president and Sister Ada Pearson was elected Secretary Treasurer.

(Taken from the Church Historical Scrapbook)



Picture taken in 1967
Donated by Mr. A. Barham.

In 1961 the women's department bought new floor covering for the aisles of the church.

In 1962 the school centennial committee presented the church with the sum of \$42.00

In 1964 the men of the church and friends reshingled the roof of the church.

In 1965 the men painted the outside of the church.

In 1966 the walls of the church were refinished with wood panelling and an electric organ was installed. The fund for the organ was started in 1965 by the Young People's group. On January 15, 1967 the organ was dedicated in a service conducted by Elder A. Barham. The dedication prayer was given by Elder Earl Hill.

The names of the Elders of the church through the years are listed below.

1876-1883---Elder Christopher Pearson.
1883-1887---Elder William Jenkins.
1887-1911---Elder Christopher Pearson.
1911-1913---Elder William Jenkins.
1913-1919---Elder Henry Pearson.
1919-1921---Elder Albert Borbridge.
1921 ---This term was finished by
Bro. Cecil Beemer.
1922-1940---Elder Henry Pearson.
1940-1950---Bro. Cecil Beemer.
1950-1952---Elder Howard Marshall.
1952-1960---Elder Archie Barham.
1960-1961---Elder Thomas McDonald.
1961-1964---Elder Archie Barham.
1964-1965---Elder Earl Hill;
1965-1967---Elder Archie Barham.



Residence of Elder Archie Barham

1972

THE FIRBY CEMETERY

In the early days of the settlement of this section of Canada and before a railroad was built churches or Chapels, as they were called, were built, to accomodate the early settlers.

On the north-east corner of Concession 10, Bayham Township, Lot 1, was built one and known as Benson's Chapple, and for burial purposes a burial place was selected one mile south, and was known as the Firby Cemetery. I suppose it was owing to it being a sandy knoll, and the property belonging to one Thomas Firby one of the early settlers.

It was used as a burial place before the deed was given for that purpose, as the dates on some of the tombstones will signify by their dates of burial.

A copy of the original deed is still extant and is written on old parchment, and is now in the possession of the Executive of the Firby Burial Ground.

This is a copy of the Deed, which in itself gives a slight history of who were the early settlers.

THIS INDENTURE made this Ninteenth Day of July, in the year of our Lord Eighteen Hundred and Fifty-Five, in pursuance of the Act to facilitate the Conveyance of Real Property, between THOMAS FIRBY of Windsor, in the Township of Sandwich, in the County of Essex, and Province of Canada, of the first part. Gentleman,

-and-

HIRAM MOSS - JOSEPH FIRBY - GEORGE SILVERTHORN - WILLIAM KIPP jr. - JOHN MEDCALF - SAMUEL MCKENNEY - THOMAS T. CASCADDAN the Trustees of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Bayham, later BENSON'S CHAPPLE, in the Township of Bayham and Malahide, in the County of Elgin, and Province aforesaid, of the second part, farmers.

Witnesseth, that for and in consideration of the sum of Five Shillings, lawful money of Canada, now paid by the Trustees of Benson's Chapple, aforesaid, their successors and assigns forever, all that parcel and premices, situated and lying and being in the Township of Bayham, in the County of Elgin, of the said Province, containing by admeasurement, one acre, more or less, being composed of a part of Lot Number 1, in the eighth Concession, of the Township of Bayham.

That is to say:-

Commencing at the North-West angle of the said Lot, on the Township Line, then across the said line, across the Creek to the South Bank, being the place of beginning, -then Easterly along the bank Fourteen Rods = then South parallel with the Township line ELEVEN RODS - then West parallel with the said Bank FOURTEEN RODS -then North with the Township line ELEVEN RODS - to the place of beginning.

IN TRUST, for the use of a Public Burying Ground, in the Townships of Bayham and Malahide, in the County and Province aforesaid,

The said THOMAS FIRBY, covenants with the Trustees of Benson's Chapple, aforesaid, that he hath the right to convey the said lands to the Trustees of the Chappel, aforesaid.

And, that the Trustees of the said Benson's Chapple shall have quiet possession of the said lands, free from all incumbrances, and the said THOMAS FIRBY covenants with the Trustees of the Benson's Chapple, aforesaid, that he will execute such further assurances of the said lands as may be requisite.

In witness whereof, the said party of these presents have hereunto set his hand and affixed his seal, the day and year before mentioned.

Signed, sealed, and delivered, in the presence of

DANIEL MOSS ((THOMAS FIRBY
ALVIN MOSS (()
(

It is interesting to note when passing through the Burial Ground that many of the pioneers of this section have no relatives living, and that there are few descendants left, and they would be of the third or fourth generation.

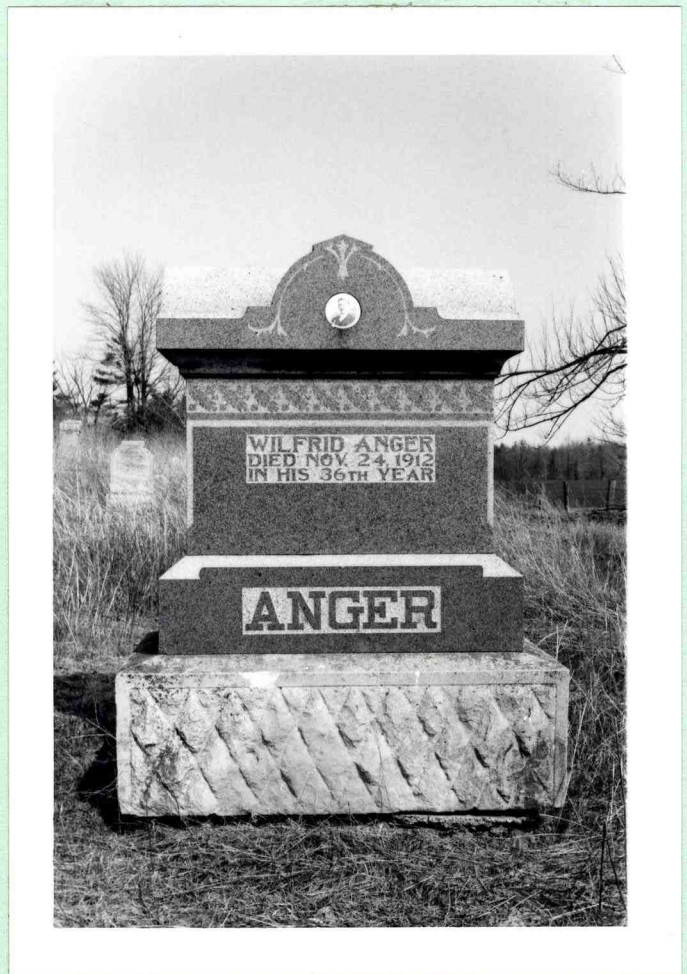
The earliest burial as marked on the marble slab, was in the year 1850, and a few others before the deed was given in the year 1855. There is also one Charlotte Mossman, the wife of Timothy Mossman, who lived to the age of One Hundred and Nine Years. The oldest person now living has no recollection of that name.

The name of FIRBY seems to be in the majority as the son of the donor of the ground operated a saw mill and also was a large landowner in this section.

I might mention the names of families who at one time played a prominent part in the early building up of this locality, and are buried here.

COOKS - BERRY - PEARSON - MCKENNEY -
 POUND - FOSTER - KIPP - CHUTE - SILVERTHORN -
 SMITH - CASCADDAN - MOSS - BEARSS - MOORE -
 BROWN - PRECURE - PEACOCK - ANGER - HARDWICK-
 MITTS - CHEESEMAN - BENNER - HAYWARD

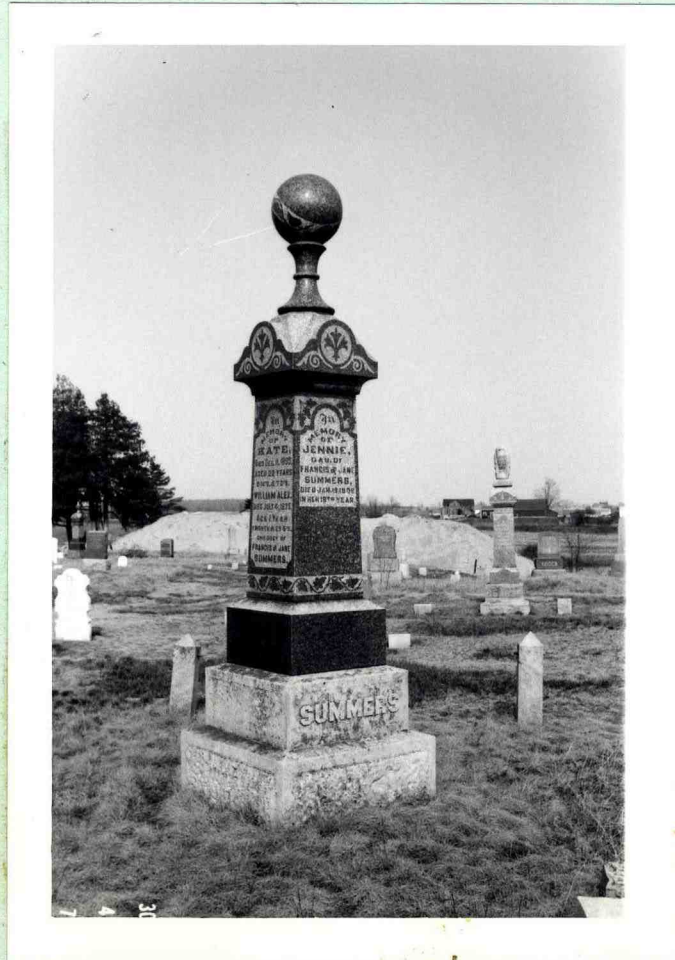
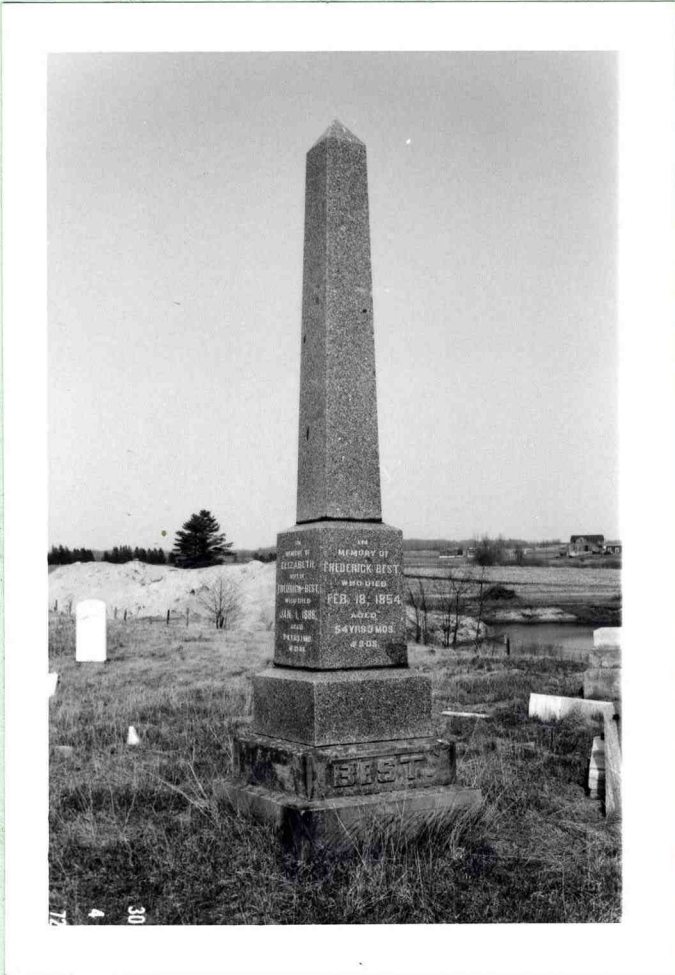
Not many burials have taken place recently and the place was neglected and was overgrown with weeds and lilacs. But the local community's spirit has arisen and under the Cemetery Act the Township Council are empowered to give assistance and the Directors are taking advantage of it. A hearty response has been given by those interested and now a fund has been collected and it is getting in shape so that we can feel proud that these pioneers who cleared the land and did their part are not forgotten.



THE BEST CEMETERY

This property consisting of one acre is situated in the 10th Concession of Bayham Township, one mile east of the village of Corinth.

In 1864 it was given for a cemetery by Casper Best, owner of the farm on which it is situated. Many of the well-known families of the surrounding country were buried there, namely, Summers, Crane, Foster, Beemers, Stimers, Travis, Amoss, Evans and Best.

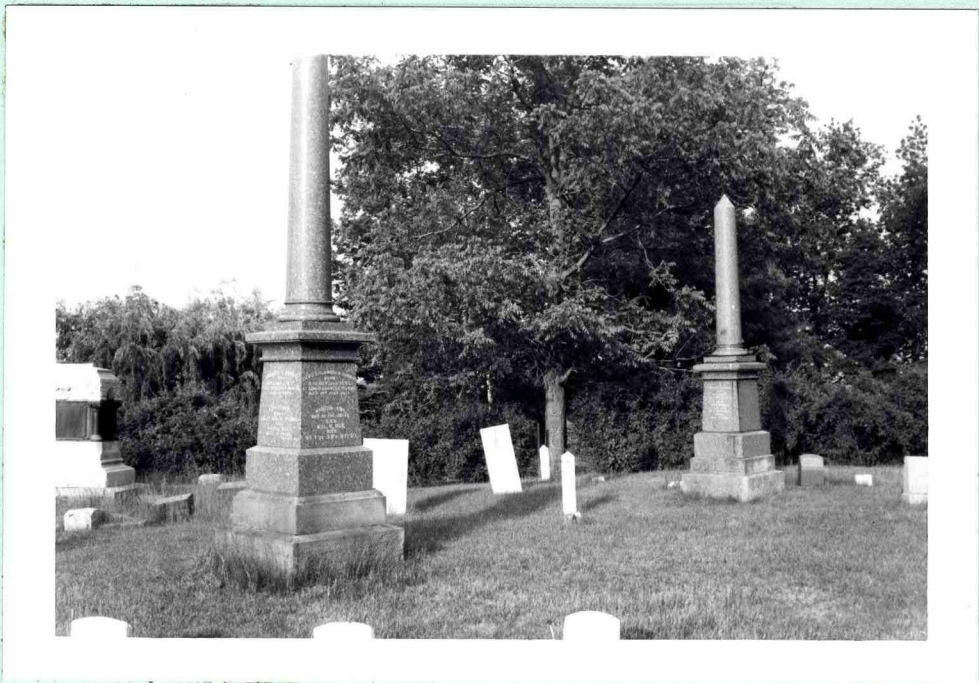


THE DOBBIE CEMETERY

The following is taken from an article written by Louisa M. Hatch:

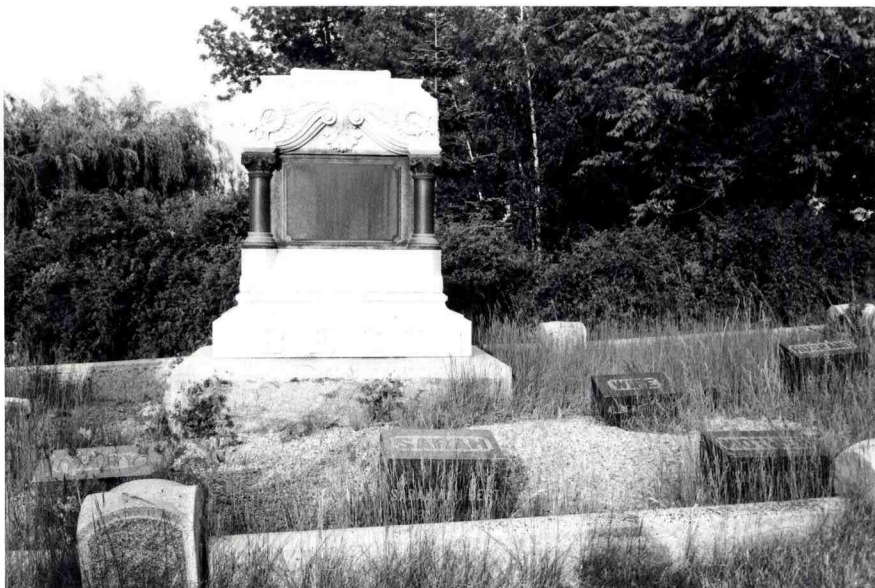
"If one would discover the fairest locations of our countryside, he could do no better than follow the trail of the pioneer cemeteries. Invariably our beauty-starved ancestors selected the sunniest and sweetest spots in which to lay their lost ones for the long sleep, until the glad trump of the resurrection should rouse them."

One of these pleasant burial sites is the Dobbie Cemetery of North Bayham. Rising high and dry above a semi-border of open woodland, it is delightfully restful and sunny on a bright March day. It is small, but full of handsome monuments, introducing you to the old families of the district - Livingston's, Crossett's, Haley's, Elliott's, etc.



Twin obelisks of Andrew & George Dobbie

The place must have been considered a centre of population at one time. For not only did the North Bayham Methodists erect their first church on a knoll across the field, but before that, the Anglicans planned to build a church there. It was for this purpose that Colonel Andrew Dobbie's grant included five acres, the west part reverting to the estate when the edifice did not materialize."



Monument of George Best

Conspicuous among the stones is the monument of George William Best and the spires of the twin obelisks of Andrew and George Dobbie, ancestors of one of the most influential families of North Bayham. In fact, it was from the estate of Colonel Andrew Dobbie that the plot for the cemetery was given. And - there are so many odd things that one runs across in connection with cemeteries - this burial plot was, and still is Anglican. Although the surrounding community during the memory of modern man has always been Methodist.



An unusual old tomb