

Church Reunion

Sunday, June 25th, 1967

MAPLETON CHURCH OF CHRIST (Disciples)

KINGSMILL

ONTARIO



Souvenir Programme

1850 - 1967

L. B. NETHERCOTT
Pastor

KENNETH McNEIL
Chairman of Board

It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High: PS 192:1.

Worship Service

2:00 P.M.



MR. A. V. COULTER, Presiding

ORGAN PRELUDE Mrs. V. Brown

DOXOLOGY

INVOCATION PRAYER Rev. B. Woodruff

SPECIAL MUSIC The Choir

SCRIPTURE Mr. Carleton Wells

PASTORAL PRAYER Rev. Wm. Bilson

COMMUNION HYMN Stanzas 1 and 2 — 532

COMMUNION MEDITATION Rev. R. G. Dakin

PRAYER FOR BREAD Mr. A. V. Coulter

PRAYER FOR CUP Mr. Douglas Legg

COMMUNION HYMN Stanzas 3 and 4 — 532

ANNOUNCEMENTS and OFFERING

SPECIAL MUSIC The Choir

SERMON Rev. L. B. Nethercott

HYMN 144

BENEDICTION

GREETINGS

Rev. K. S. Wills, Mr. C. R. Wright, Rev. Don Foley,
Mr. James E. Stephens, Rev. Stan Staunton.
Greetings have been received by letter from:
O. W. McCully, Wm. Wells, F. James, H. Franks.

History of the Church

In 1850 a small band of faithful men and women, under the leadership of evangelists, first held their meetings during the summer months in the form of camp meetings in the forest, and at irregular intervals during the winter months in the homes.

A young man, Edmund Shepherd, from the Church of the Disciples of Christ in Nottingham, England, came to Canada in 1843 and in 1849 taught school at Mapleton. He also preached and directed his efforts toward the foundation of a church.

In an early record book we read:

"The congregation of South Dorchester, under the auspices of a providing and indulgent God, first met at the home of Brother Shepherd on the Lord's Day, January 6, 1850. Here the candlestick was set up. May it never be removed until the world and all earthly churches shall be no more. Amen."

The church was finished and dedicated by Elder Dugald Sinclair. It served 22 years, when in 1872 an octagon shaped white brick church replaced it. The present red brick building was erected in 1903.

We are grateful for the spiritual vigor of the early pioneers who determined that the families of this community would meet together in a suitable place of worship. It is fitting that we remember these dedicated souls for many of our present members are direct descendants. The work has benefited much, however, from the contribution of those who came later, or who lived in the community for shorter periods of time. It is because of all of these that the candle is still burning brightly in this place, as Brother Shepherd willed that it would one hundred and seventeen years ago.



Ministers serving Mapleton 1850 - 1967

E. Shepherd
E. R. Black
N. H. Stephens
R. W. Ballah
W. G. Charlton
W. N. Arnold
J. I. Wheeler
D. McColl
S. Walton Fay
S. R. Aldrich
D. T. Stanley

Thomas Bradt
H. K. Franks
J. D. Stephens
A. Butler
Carlton Wells
F. R. James
William Fermer
S. Stainton
William Bilson
D. L. Foley
L. B. Nethercott

Officers 1967

Honorary Elders — Lorne McNeil, Herb Brown, Herb Thomson.

Elders — Archie Coulter, Douglas Legg.

Deacons — Ken McNeil, Hugh McNeil, David Stover, Bruce Roher, John Thomron, Jim Thomson, John Brown.

Deaconesses — Mesdames Herb Brown, Fred Brown, Claude Hoover, C. Wodham, Stanley Stover, John Thomson, Walter Moore.

Secretary — Mrs. Ralph Stover.

Assistant — Mrs. Harvey Smith.

Treasurer — Douglas Legg.

Assistant — Mrs. Ralph Stover.

Trust Fund — John Thomson.

Trustees — Lorne McNeil, Archie Coulter, Douglas Legg, John Thomson, Ralph Stover, Reymond Light.

Organist — Mrs. Fred Brown.

Assistants — Mary Jane McNeil and Mrs. Herb Thomson.

Communion — Mrs. David Stover.

Deacon's Helpers — Ronald McNeil, Donald McNeil, Carl Stover, Harvey Stover, Raymond Light, Howard Stover, John Haigenbos.

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Brown Mark 50th Anniversary



MR. AND MRS. HERBERT BROWN

KINGSMILL (T.-J. Aylmer Bureau) — A well known Kingsmill couple, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Brown, on Tuesday celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in the same room in which they were married on June 3, 1908.

The happy couple, members of pioneer Yarmouth and Kingsmill families, received a large number of friends and relatives who called throughout the day to extend congratulations and best wishes. The open house was held in the former home of the bride, now occupied by a son, Lewis, and Mrs. Brown and their three children, David, John and Rosalie.

The couple were married by the late Prof. T. L. Fowler, an uncle of the bride and a minister of the Church of Christ (Disciples). The bride's brother, the late Archie Thomson, was best man at the wedding and Miss Zelma Brown, of Winnipeg, a cousin of the groom, was maid-of-honor.

The bridesmaid was the late Mrs. Duncan McKillop, formerly Miss Eva Coulter, of St. Thomas, a sister of Archie V. Coulter. Flower girl was Miss Ruth Charlton, a teacher on the staff of the McGregor Public School in Aylmer.

Following the marriage ceremony, the couple honeymooned in Detroit and Cleveland, travelling to St. Thomas by horse and buggy to board the train.

Mr. Brown is a son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Lorenzo M. Brown, a pioneer South Dorchester family, and was born in Kingsmill. Mrs. Brown was the former Mabel Thomson, daughter of the late

Mr. and Mrs. John D. Thomson, North Yarmouth pioneers.

Mr. Brown has farmed all of his life in the Kingsmill district. Both Mr. and Mrs. Brown have been very active in the work of the Church of Christ (Disciples) in Mapleton. Both take a keen interest in community affairs.

Mr. and Mrs. Brown have two sons, Lewis and George, both of Kingsmill. A third son, John, died in 1941. There are three grandchildren.

The couple received many messages of congratulations, among them messages from James A. McBain, M. P. for Elgin, and Ron K. McNeil, Elgin M. P. P.

McNeil Family Members Come From Overseas To Make First Complete Reunion in 36 Years

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1956



SEVEN MEET AGAIN — When it is 36 years since a family last met together, a photograph to mark the occasion is indeed appropriate. Pictured here at the A. V. Coulter home in North Yarmouth, are front row, seated, Mrs. A. V. (Mary) Coulter and

Lorne McNeil, Con. 11, South Dorchester; standing, left to right, Gordon McNeil, of St. Thomas; Alex McNeil, of Northern Rhodesia; Kenneth McNeil, of Cali, Columbia; Archie McNeil, of Fort Erie, and Hugh McNeil, of R.R. 2, Lyons.—(T-J Photo)

The Mc.Neil Family (Continued)

Six brothers and one sister of a well known Elgin County family, who have not been together for 36 years, were reunited on Tuesday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Archie Coulter in North Yarmouth.

The seven, children of the late Mr. and Mrs. Peter Mc.Neil of Concession 12, South Dorchester, found much to recall and talk about, as they bridged the long span of time since they last met together.

The family, eldest first, includes Lorne, well known farmer of the Springfield area, Hugh, also a farmer of Lyons, Mrs A.V. (Mary) Coulter, N. Yarmouth, Kenneth of Cali, Columbia, S. America, where he is with the Union Carbide and Carbon Co. of New York, Archir of Fort Erie, a New York Central engineer, Alex, a Copper Mine Manager of Kalalushi, Northern Rhodesia and Gordon, station-engineer at the Timkins Roller Bearings Co. of St. Thomas.

Alex has been vacationing in Canada since June and in order to make the reunion complete, Kenneth took advantage of a business trip to New York to travel to St. Thomas to meet the brother, whom he has not seen for 22 years. Kenneth is scheduled to start his return journey to S. America today and Alex begins his sea voyage to Africa on Sunday.

The family grew up together on the farm where Lorne carries on the operation of 225 acres and in their younger days, all attended the Lyons Public School, Springfield Continuation School and Aylmer High School. Mary Coulter became a teacher and taught at Springfield until her marriage. Alex and Kenneth are graduates of Queen's University. The four remaining brothers made careers for themselves more locally.

Lorne and Hugh are farmers. Archie has been with the N.Y. Central for 32 years.

A visit to the house where they were born and grew up was the highlight of the reunion. The house is now the home of the fourth generation of Mc.Neils.

Talk of old times, of conditions in their various spheres, of plans for the future and for themselves has been the order, during the four days reunion. Many old friends and acquaintances have called to see the brothers from afar and to wish them luck and a safe journey as they return.



A 1940 picture of the first grain combine in the community. On the right is Clare Appleford, owner and operator of the machine. With him, is his father, James Appleford and his young son, James.

Century Farms in the Mapleten area -

Hugh Moore Pioneer - James Moore)

Fails To Obey ⁽⁴⁹⁾ 1959. 'Come On' Plea Of Brother, 5

By PAUL SALLAWAY
Free Press St. Thomas Bureau

NEW SARUM, May 15/59. Apparently too fear-stricken to obey the "come on" pleas of her five-year-old brother Michael, three-year-old Peggy Garton, of RR 8, St. Thomas, perished in flames which late this afternoon levelled the barn in which the children had been playing. Three other buildings also burned.

Rescue Bid Futile

The girl's uncle, Earl, 17, alerted by the screams of the boy as he fled from the building, suffered burns to the right side of his face in a futile effort to reach the girl.

Lorenzo Schneider, whose farm property lies just south of the Garton farm, two miles north of here on No. 74 highway, rushed into his home to tell his wife and dropped dead of a heart attack.

The girl is believed to have been trapped in the west end of the barn where she and Michael were playing in the hay loft. Late tonight firemen were still probing the burning and smoldering rubble for her body, working by searchlight.

Unaware of the tragedy was the girl's mother Mrs. Marjorie Garton, who has been separated from her husband, Kenneth for some time, and whose whereabouts are unknown. She is believed to be in Western Canada.



PEGGY GARTON
- - - dies in flames

Two large and two small barns burned to the ground in less than an hour in a \$50,000 to \$75,000 blaze which also destroyed nearly 80 animals.

Burned Rapidly

Cause of the blaze is unknown. Flames raced rapidly through an estimated 75 tons of hay, fanned by strong winds. Some of the 70 pigs in the barns had to be shot to end their misery.

Earl Garton said he knew nothing of the blaze until Michael ran from the most westerly barn, just east of the highway. Earl had been milking cows in the east barn. He said it was impossible to reach the little girl.

Fears that Michael too had been burned to death were dismissed when it was learned he had been taken to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Lindsay, RR 3, St. Thomas.

There he told The Free Press



MICHAEL GARTON
- - - escapes death

he and his sister had been playing in the sloping hay mow and that when he saw the flames he ran down the slope to floor level.

"I kept calling to her but she wouldn't come," the shaking and frightened boy said.

Returned to the scene, he told firemen where he thought Peggy would be, but was then quickly taken away again.

Father At Work

The father had been working at Canadian Allis-Chalmers Ltd. and came upon the blaze as he returned from St. Thomas. The Garton home is 300 feet from the barn.

Believed first to notice the fire was volunteer fireman Keith Davis, who had been working in his fields a half mile to the west. Running to his home, he sounded the alarm to Yarmouth No. 2 fire department and then drove to the scene.

Equipment Destroyed

The fire also destroyed a combine, tractor, bailer, livery rig, hammer mill, mower, cutting box and considerable other farm equipment.

Peggy's grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Garton, who own the farm, also were absent when the blaze broke out and returned shortly after to learn of the tragedy.

Tractors, pitchforks, and barehands were used to clear debris in the search for the girl. Dozens of cars clogged the roadsides as spectators flocked to the scene.

The Garton's have no other children.

Re memorial, see the page on 'Disciple Church'.



WHERE GIRL DIED—Charred and still smoldering, ruins of a barn hide the body of three-year-

—Free Press St. Thomas Bureau
old Peggy Garton, burned to death last night on her father's farm near New Sarum.

Another Tragic Death.

Cornelius Van Reestel and his family came here from Holland, following the War and have acquired farm after farm in the Napleten and Kingsmill areas. There are six grown sons and they work together harmoniously.

Albert, one of the sons was operating a corn picker, in November 1964 on his father's farm east of Kingsmill on the 8th concession of Malahide when he got caught in the elevator and being alone in the field was killed.



MAR • 60

The Belmont 4 H Dairy Club Float at 1959 Belmont Fair. On the right is Roy Mc. Gregor, who has been the Leader of the Club for 25 years. At the back, is Sharon Danbrook, Dairy Queen of the Fair and also was earlier named Dairy Princess of Elgin County.



The Keith Danbrook Family, chosen as Elgin County's Farm Family of the month. They appeared as such, on C.F.P.L.- T.V.Co-Op Show on March 31st, 1959, as guests of Roy Jewell. Sharon, on the right, was Elgin County's 1959 Dairy Princess, on the left is Carolyn. She showed the champion 4-H calf at Elgin County Achievement Day. She was also champion showman. The others - Brenda, Frank and Tom are also keenly interested in helping to fit and show the herd.



DAIRY QUEEN — Sharon Danbrook, RR 8, St. Thomas, posing with pony, was named dairy queen at the fair yesterday. Miss Danbrook represented Elgin County as dairy princess earlier this year. She attends London Teachers' College.



Grace Free (seated, in the plaid dress)

This picture was taken by the pool at the Castle Harbor Hotel in Bermuda. These five smiling winners of the St. Thomas Journal subscription contest are enjoying a weeks holiday in tropical Bermuda.

They had earned this privilege from their efforts in gathering subscriptions for the Times Journal. This is the second win, Grace has enjoyed. Last year they were entertained in Florida.

Miss Myrtle Charlton, a daughter of the late John Charlton and Cathrine (Brown) Charlton, died at the age of 77 in May, 1966. The Charlton home ^{was} is a mile east of Mapleton. Myrtle was a graduate of Alma College, St. Thomas. She received her A.T.C.M. from the Toronto Conservatory of Music and taught music in Durham, Ontario, where she has resided for 30 years.

Carlton Wells of the Church of Christ Disciples conducted the graveside service and the burial was made at the necropolis Cemetery here.

Early Telephone Companies That Served

The Kingsmill - Mapleton - Crossley Hunter Communities.

There were two of these companies which began operating early in the century in a very crude way, They were co operative ventures, financed, built and maintained by the few people who were served by them. Everyone owned his own telephone. The lines were fastened to trees or fence posts wherever convenient.

The history of the Belmont Telephone Cooperative Association dates back to May 1905 when 68 persons bought shares at \$ 10.00. With a quarterly fee of \$ 4.00. Mr. A.W.Venning was the first Secretary Treasurer until 1931 when the post was taken over by his daughter Mrs. E.E.George who held the office until the company sold to the Bell Telephone Company in June 1962.

Mr. Venning's sole equipment as he travelled by horse and buggy along the lines was a hammer and screw driver. The service given by the operators was very personal. Someone wished to call a Mrs. Luton. The operator, glancing out of the window, saw Mrs. Luton's dog sitting outside the Post Office and advised them to call later, that Mrs. Luton was in the Post Office right then.

In 1939 under F.J.Yorke's management, a cable was installed in the village which was later expended outside the village.

The managers who served the Company include Dr. A.J. Meldrum, H.J. Barons, John Dawes, F.J. Yorke, Harold Farquhar, and W. Silverthorn,

Early Directors include John Brodie, William Campbell, John Ferguson, J.S. Cousins, Skene Smith, J.A. Moore, F.R. Taylor, W.A. Dumaw, G.E. Faulds, J.C. Jenkins, George Wilcox, Robinson Thompson, R.R. Mc Gregor, Clair Carrothers, and Harold Jenkins.

Auditors were : George Brodie, Andrew Dodds, R. McGregor, Bruce Hawley, and W.C. Barons.

Operators were :-
Mamie Watcher, Edith Forsyth, Mrs. Lillian McTavish, Sarah McCallum Muriel, Verna and Alberta



Final Members of the Telephone Board when it sold to The Bell Telephone Co. for \$100,000.00. F.R. Taylor, Mrs. E.E. George, Harold Jenkins, (Standing) Robinson Thompson, Clair Carrothers, Roy Mc. Gregor.

Floto, Beatrice Harkness and Kay Barons.

Since it came under the management of the Bell Company, the Operators have been - Mrs. Gladys Anderson, Mrs. Clara Weldhen, Mrs. Shirley Silverthorae, Mrs. Emma Langford, Mrs. Evelyn Shain and Mrs. Constance Legg.

The reason for selling out to the Bell Telephone Company was because of the encroaching dial systems in surrounding areas, a system too costly for a small organization to finance.

At the time of the Sale, there were 545 subscribers.

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Another little early telephone system, whose chief instigators were Dr. Augustine, a Veterinarian in Aylmer, W.C. Barons, a general Store Keeper in Mapleton, L.M. Brown and J.C. Dance, both farmers living between these two points.

This little line ran between Barons store and Dr. Augustine's office. It was a great novelty. At first, everyone who could spare the time, ran to listen in, whenever the telephone rang and would even join into the conversation if it was a matter of running to a neighbor with a message or for help.

This line also operated on the system of everyone owning his own telephone, helping to build and maintain the line, which was strung on trees and fence posts wherever possible.

After a violent storm, particularly ice, if the line went dead, it was anybody's business to go over the lines nearest to him, pull broken limbs off the wire or splice the wire if it was broken.

There was just one single wire. The return circuit was by the ground. In a dry spell, if the telephone didn't work well, people would pour water around their ground rod, another 'do it yourself' trick.

There finally were 44 telephones on this one line. There was no Central, no Operators to put through calls. Each telephone holder had a code ring and everyone rang for himself.

This little line was taken over by the South Malahide Telephone Company in 1914. The Bell Telephone Company have made repeated offers to buy it but it still operates as The South Malahide Telephone Company, with head offices in Aylmer.