

Among the pioneers of the three units, which form
St John's church, were Adam Heglar, Peter Hemmingway,
Squire Reuben Johnson, Samuel Allen,
Andrew McLean, J. B. Lucas, D. Mc Kenney, W. R. Johnson
the Hooks, Leeson, Atkins, Nesbitts, Luddays, Newells,
Moore, Dr Mills, W. Pendreigh, James Mitchell,
Daniel Mc Intyre, Duncan Ferguson, John Ferguson
James Haggerty and a host of others.

St John's church stands as a monument to the
faithful and self sacrificing labor of those, who
have shared in its establishment from the
days of the first log school where they first
worshipped.

St John's is enjoying the very fruitful
ministry of the Rev J. J. White B.A. The session
is composed of John Walker, F. C. Martin, John
Brown, Elias Buchner, Murray Plato, G. P. Winter
now in his 91st year.

Baptist Church.

Prior to 1886 there was no Baptist Church in Springfield. The nearest Baptist churches were at Ayler, six miles, south-west, and at Brownsville about the same distance to the east.

The Brownsville church arranged to place a building on the town line of Derehem and South Dorchester - just to the north side of the M.C.P.R. tracks, on the east side of the road, and it became known as the "little Baptist mission church". This was the nearest Baptist church to Springfield a distance of three miles to travel, and here many a happy and profitable Sunday was spent in the teaching and preaching of the gospel, by a very efficient local preacher, Uncle Benjamin Brown of Brownsville, assisted by his nephew George Bruton Brown, an enterprising young farmer and one especially interested in the Gospel and Christian service.

This young man anxious to do gospel service and viewing Springfield as a promising and hopeful field for Christian service decided to preach there. After making arrangements with the Springfield Fair Board for the use of the Horticultural Hall, he began in November 1886 to hold regular weekly service and every Sunday afternoon at 2.30 P.M.

As the Baptist college was situated in the city of Woodstock, it was known as the "Woodstock Baptist College". Here students were in training for the ministry, and so made it a convenient place to call for extra help in the work when needed. Since M. G. B. Brown's meetings

were encouraging he proposed to get extra help and carry on special "evangelistical meetings", and so on Jan. 10th 1887 were started special services assisted by Rev. Hastings and Rev. Lobb of Woodstock.

A month later on a Sunday afternoon (Feb 13th) the first Baptismal service was held when five converts were baptized in a creek of running water. On the same evening (Sunday Feb 13th) the members which now totalled twenty were organized into a "Regular Baptist Church" and the right hand of Fellowship was extended to its members, by the Rev. Mr Lobb. A week later the newly organized church appointed its first Deacons - Bros. Tedford and Hiram Dean. They decided then that they should be indentified and recognized by the Regular Baptist Convention of Churches, so calling in some dozen surrounding Baptist churches, London - St Thomas - Aylmer - Brownsville - Jaffa - Ingersoll - Woodstock - Tillsonburg - Gladstone - Malahide & Bayham - Port Burwell and Waterford.

At a special meeting of these churches on March 8th 1887 they with twenty members, were officially recognized as the Regular Baptist Church of Springfield. On June 6th another Deacon was appointed Benj. J. Madill. He also was chosen as the first church clerk.

As Mr G. Brown was not as yet an ordained minister Rev A. J. Sowerby of the Aylmer Baptist Church assisted him in baptismal services. Under his leadership the young pioneer church progressed and interest deepened. In 1889 a student of Woodstock college was procured for the summer months - a Mr Harris - In 1890 Rev A. J. Sowerby again assisted. In 1891 Mr King of Woodstock College came for the summer months.