

Mrs. J. R. Fitcher's  
Trip  
Abroad.

CHURCH

Oct/38 to Aug. 1945

## HISTORICAL SKETCH OF TALBOTVILLE UNITED CHURCH

"Continued"

### Sixtieth Anniversary

(following Booklet (J.W. Hedley.)

Sunday, October 9, 1938, was a memorable day in the history of Talbotville United Church, it being the Sixtieth Anniversary of the dedication of the present building. A booklet, an historical sketch of the church and community, prepared by the pastor, Rev. J. W. Hedley, was passed out to those wishing to have one. This sketch dates back to 1844 (101 years ago now) when the charge was first established. It has been thought advisable to place a copy of this booklet in our "Tweedsmuir Village History Book" and to precede this following sketch which was prepared to chronicle events in connection with that church and its organizations from that Sixtieth Anniversary in October, 1938 to the present date, September, 1945.

As was, and is still the custom, three church services were held on Anniversary day, and at all three, large, interested, attentive congregations filled the freshly decorated auditorium. Two former pastors, Rev. J. Melvin Keyes, and Rev. R. C. Copeland, occupied the pulpit during the morning and afternoon services respectively, while Rev. J. W. Hedley conducted the evening service. During the day, many who called Talbotville their childhood's home, returned to enjoy the day in fellowship and worship with friends of long ago. It is interesting to note that several who had attended the opening services in 1878 were present at those Anniversary services in 1938. These included Mrs. J. W. Coulter, St. Thomas (since deceased), Mr. William Ackford, St. Thomas, Mrs. Emma Merrill, Dutton, Miss Annie Ackford, Dutton, and Mrs. John Auckland, Mr. E. P. Boughner, and Mr. William Hicks, still residents of Talbotville. On the following Tuesday evening, the Women's Association of the church, served a sumptuous turkey supper followed by a concert.

Rev. Hedley continued as Pastor until he retired in St. Catharines, June, 1940, and was succeeded by Rev. Harry Royle, who occupied the pulpit until his retirement in London, in June 1945. In June, 1941, Mr. Royle was elevated to the highest office in the London Conference, when he was chosen as their President.

In the Spring of 1945, in order to increase the Minister's annual stipend, Talbotville circuit was enlarged to include Yarmouth Centre, as well as Townline appointment, which has been associated with Talbotville since 1886. The charge is now known as the "St. Thomas Suburban Circuit". The new minister is Rev. Angus Taylor, recently inducted, who with his family has taken up residence in Yarmouth Centre parsonage. Thus, after serving as a parsonage in Talbotville, since 1860, the brick building just north of the church, has ceased to be the home of our minister. At present, it is occupied by Rev. L. C. White and family, Mr. White being on sick leave from the ministry. At present, Mr. William Hicks is serving as church Treasurer, Mrs. A. E. Thomas, as Envelope secretary, and Mrs. J. Taylor, M. & M. Treasurer.

A beautiful Communion Table was placed in the church in 1943, by the Women's Association, and in 1943, a Minshall Electric Organ was installed at the price of \$890.00. This was paid for in cash by contributions from members and friends, and generous donations from the various church organizations. A wall mirror above the organ was a gift from Mr. and Mrs. James Lindsay. Miss Frances Gunning is the present church organist, having succeeded her sister, Mrs. Harvey Naylor (nee Mae Gunning), while the Assistant organist and choir leader is Mrs. Ralph Auckland.

On the north wall of the church, hang two framed Honor Rolls, containing the names of those from the Community, who served in the Great War 1914-18, and the still Greater War, which has recently terminated after six years duration. V-E Day was fittingly observed in the church by Rev. Royle on Sunday, May 13, 1945, and V-J Day, by a special service on Wednesday, August 15, 1945, at eleven in the morning by Rev. A. Taylor. One of our local-born boys, Warrant Officer Franklin Travers, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Travers, paid the supreme sacrifice on March 11, 1943. On the south wall, is a marble slab, a Memorial for the three who gave their lives when serving in the First Great War. Elsewhere in our "Tweedsmuir Village History Book" may be found a complete list of the names on those two Honor Rolls. The large flag by the Honor Rolls was a gift to the Church from Mr. W. H. Moody (since deceased).

#### CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** A fire, cause unknown, which started in the lean-to kitchen at the rear of the church on Friday morning, December 6, 1940, completely destroyed that building and gutted the school room. Had it not been for the prompt and generous help of fire fighters, and mechanical help from Union, Yarmouth, Shedden and Fingal, the church and other near-by buildings would also have been lost. The loss estimated at a little over two thousand dollars, was partially covered by insurance. As a result of the fire, a fine new school hall with fully equipped kitchen at the east end, now replaces the old one, and was dedicated for service, on June 29, 1941. Since then, the Sunday School Anniversary Services are held there, instead of in the church auditorium, and to accommodate the congregation on such occasions, thirty-five folding chairs were purchased. A legacy of twenty-five dollars left to the Sunday School in the will of the late Mrs. Sarah J. Boughner (widow of late Lorenzo Boughner), and a donation for the same amount from the Women's Association, paid for the chairs.

After faithful service as Sunday School Superintendent for over Sixty years, Mr. E. P. Boughner was in February, 1941, appointed Honorary Superintendent. The active Superintendent became Mr. Howard Gunning, who, we are sad to chronicle met his untimely death by accident in the M.C.R. yards in October, 1942.

*St Thomas Act*

Superintendents since then, have been Freeman Parker, Albert Auckland and Ralph Auckland, the last two named being the present Associate Superintendents. A splendid portrait of Mr. Boughner hangs on the front wall of the Sunday School room. He celebrated his eighty-fifth birthday on August 10, 1945.

Betty Wallis is the present Treasurer, and John Auckland and Jim Brokenshire, secretaries of the School. The Cradle Roll in charge of Mrs. Joe Auckland contains twenty-four names of babies three years old and under.

**WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION** The Women's Association is still rendering a great service to the church, and meeting the first Thursday of each month at member's homes or in the school hall. Presidents since 1938 have been: Mrs. Harvey French, 1939; Mrs. Alice Thomas, 1940-42; and Mrs. Ralph Auckland, from 1943 to the present time. Mrs. Colin McCallum is the Secretary, and Mrs. Elmer Auckland, the Treasurer.

In 1935, a legacy of three hundred dollars was left to the W.A. by the late Miss Sarah H. Prangler of the Townline appointment, to be expended to relieve needy people in the vicinity of the church, over a period of five years.

In 1941, a considerable amount of money was raised to equip the new kitchen of the School Hall, which is a credit to the Community. An electric clock was installed in the School Room, in 1942, as well as curtains for the windows and later a generous donation was given to the Church Board for the new electric organ. Donations have also been made for various War Projects besides the regular up-keep of the Parsonage. Membership in the W. A. is at present fifty-one ladies. The system of working in four groups has been followed since 1940.

**YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETY** The Young People's Society continues to train the young people in Christian service. Presidents since 1938 have been: Mae Gunning, (now Mrs. H. Naylor, Toronto), Albert Auckland, Frances Gunning, Mollie Royle (now Mrs. Walter Bawden), Douglas Gunning, and at present, Albert Auckland.

Their meetings are usually held on Sunday evenings, since the evening Church service has been discontinued for nearly two years. But once a month, the Young People enjoy a Social "Get-to-gether" on Friday evening often entertaining or visiting a neighbouring Y.P.S.

**WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY** The W.M.S. has been in existence since 1910, and meets the first Tuesday of each month in the members' homes. Presidents since 1938 have been: Mrs. J. Taylor, Mrs. William Meek, Mrs. Joe Auckland, and Mrs. E. Latimer at the present date, with Mrs. Joe

Auckland Secretary, and Mrs. Walter Auckland as Treasurer.

A Girls' Circle was recently organized with Mrs. Latimer as leader, Marion Wallis, President; Hazel Waite, Secretary; and Ruth Auckland, Treasurer. Mrs. Melvin Travers is in charge of the Mission Band, and Mrs. Latimer of the Baby Band, all organizations being under the supervision of the W. M. S.

The above Historical Sketch of Talbotville United Church and its organizations from 1938 to August, 1945, was prepared and read by Mrs. Alice E. Thomas, at the Historical Research meeting of the Talbotville and Paynes Mills Women's Institute on September 20, 1945, at the home of Mrs. Harold Clarke, President.

1 Thomas Voaden  
2 Frank Stacey  
3 John Ayerest

entered ministry

Church treasurer

Wm. Hicks

You Are Cordially Invited to the  
**Talbotville United Church Anniversary**  
OCTOBER 10th, 1943

PREACHERS -

10.30 A. M.—The REV. C. W. MORROW, S T L.  
2.30 P. M.—The REV. E. J. ROULSTON  
7.30 P. M.—The REV. J. W. HUNT.

The Stewards request the same offering as last year, viz.: \$475.00

Name.....

Amount.....

"The Lord loveth a cheerful giver"

# Talbotville United Church.

Some ministers who have served this church.

It is not definitely known who the first minister was, who travelled this district, but records show, that, in 1844

Rev. Edward Baillie held services in this community. He was a minister of the New Connection Branch of the Wesleyan Methodist Church.

From 1844 to 1850, we find following names recorded, -

Rev. A. Armstrong

Rev. J. Wilkinson

Rev. H. D. Crafts

Rev. Jas. Bell - 1848

Rev. B. Haight

Rev. T. Caswell - 1851.

Rev. N. C. Gowan - 1853

Rev. A. Vinny

Apparently, at first, they travelled on horse-back, but in 1851, a house was rented for Mr. Caswell at Five Stakes.

In 1846, there were eight preaching places, - North Street, South Yarmouth, (or Salt Creek), Five Stakes, New Sarum, Delaware Township, Ekfrid, Yarmouth, Townline, St. Thomas.

Recorded April 8th, 1947, for Tweedsmuir Village History.