

result as above stated, and now we pray that this holy and beautiful house "may be the birthplace of many souls, and continue to be a centre of sacred influence long after those who have been associated with its erection have gone Home to worship in the temple of which the Lamb is the everlasting light."

The trustees of the church at the time it was built were:

Jacob Bainard	Charles Saywell
David Bainard	John Blewett Sr.
John Logg	John Blewett Jr.
John Calcott	

The building committee were:

Jacob Bainard	John Blewett Sr.
David Bainard	John Blewett Jr.
John Logg	John Calcott
Wm. Logg	Bassett Blewett
Charles Saywell	Neil McIntyre
Thomas Saywell	

Rev. David Rogers. Pastor.

This church replaced one built in 1859, known as the Wesleyan Methodist Church, which was opened for Divine Service on the 26th day of June, 1859.

Irene Munro

(Mrs. Lorne Munro).

*June 2, 1952.*

Aug 10, 1959

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO AT TOWN LINE, NORTH YARMOUTH

The writer of the following notes on the happenings of the old Town Line community in North Yarmouth has fortunately found in his possession some very old books and documents dealing with those early days of one hundred years ago.

Among these old heirlooms there is the large poster hanging in the vestibule of the church during your Centennial Services. This poster is dated June 26th, 1859 and tells of the three great services held at "10 $\frac{1}{2}$ , 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ , and 6 $\frac{1}{2}$  o'clock" and mentions the names of the preachers of the day - Rev. Enoch Wood, Rev. James Musgrove and Rev. R. Cooney D.D., three of the great preachers of that time. It is interesting to note that the new church was very crowded for that Sunday morning service 100 years ago, and that the records show that even with additional seating brought in, there were many standing and more waiting to get in the building.

In common with many people leaving their old homes and emigrating to far off lands, at the first opportunity they started a vigorous campaign to build themselves a house of worship. They succeeded in doing just that in a time when money was very difficult to come by but when hardy, vigorous folks were willing to make up that lack by giving generously of time and materials.

My grandfather, who came from England in 1834, made entries in his diary almost every day telling of the trip from Coventry to Liverpool and then on to New York by the sailing, "New Jersey". Richard Bainard landed at New York, travelled by Hudson River and Erie Canal to Buffalo and from there to Port Stanley. The time taken from August 6th to October 31st must have seemed very long. Among the entries found in the old diary mentioned above there are many items telling of church services being held in the school house, now known as S.S. 19, Southwold Township, as well as lectures and a well attended singing school.

Among other old relics of those far off days was an account book showing Richard Bainard's dealings in the coal business in Coventry, England from 1813 to 1820 and then, fourteen years later the trip to Canada and the settling on "Lot 17, Concession 9, Westminster".

I mention this book mainly because the following item appears in it under date of November 9th, 1866:

"Minute Book of Trustee Board.

A meeting of the Trustee Board of the Town Line Wesleyan Methodist Church was held in said church on the 9th day of November, 1866 at 7 o'clock P.M..... Bro. Wm. Weldon was appointed Secretary by the unanimous vote of the meeting.

Moved by Bro. Neil McIntyre and seconded by Bro. Weldon that the secretary be allowed to hand the papers which have reference to the erection of the church to Bro. Bainard for the purpose of copying them -- said papers to be returned in one month from date of re-ception. Carried.

Bro. Weldon was requested to visit Talbot St. Church to examine the horse barns and submit to a society meeting to be called by the chairman a plan for the erection of those sheds here, said sheds to be erected immediately if the society will give their aid and support.

W. Warner Clarke.  
Chairman.

And so because permission was given to copy all the results of meetings and all the names of givers of money and of work, and all the minute specifications of the building committee, the writer is able to pass these items along to you.

In 1856 on July 19th an entry states, "Pd for half an acre of land \$100." From then on plans were being turned over in the minds of the workers. About this time a similar undertaking was carried out two and one half miles north on the Wellington Road where the Church of England built what was first known as Deer Lick Chapel and now known as Christ Church, Glanworth. It is interesting to note that the writer of the old Diary mentioned before was choir leader of the New Anglican Church and with other members of his family sang in that choir Sunday mornings and then in the afternoon in the Town Line Wesleyan Church.

On Friday evening, December 10th 1858 a meeting was held in the school house pursuant to public announcement with Richard Bainard in the chair for the purpose of appointing a building committee to superintend the building of Wesleyan Methodist Church in said neighborhood. "Resolved that the building committee be composed of Richard Bainard, Hugh McIntyre, James Saywell and Wm. Weldon and the Wesleyan minister in charge of the circuit."

"Tuesday Morning December 14th, 1858. The above committee met. Moved by Hugh McIntyre and seconded by Richard Bainard that the church be built 36x 46 feet with a height of 14 feet between floor and ceiling".

Then follows many motions dealing with engaging a suitable carpenter to frame the building and that Wm. Wait be given the preference on his giving a suitable guarantee that "the work be done properly and in a workman-like manner."

On January 10th We find this interesting item at another meeting:

"After conversation regarding the chapel, the timber, labor, etc. promised and already paid not being forthcoming it was resolved that this meeting be adjourned to meet again and report the number of days work that can be procured gratis towards the framing of the chapel."

A subscription list got off to a good start with five contributions of \$50. each, one of \$40., one of \$25., four of \$20., four of \$10. each, and many more from \$6. down to \$1. One man gave 1000 bricks and

others smaller donations of bricks. This original list of cash donations amounted to \$624.22. Twenty-four men promised work and a list is shown of "work still due" which no doubt was attended to later.

Now things begin to move along and we find four pages of specifications with a most astonishing ability on the part of the building committee to get all details that could possibly enter into the plans down in black and white.

Long before the building was completed, the work of "pewing" the chapel was very carefully planned - "similar to those in the Talbot St. Wesleyan Church excepting the seats to be closed underneath in front.... the inclination of the back etc. may differ according to the desire of the committee".

The writer has looked in vain for the reason that the choir loft was placed just inside the two front doors and of course the pulpit was at the far end of the chapel. The contractor, Wm. Wait, gave his tender for framing the building at \$45. and for framing and raising \$65. Even the above prices were subject to new motions, for on January 31st, 1859 it was moved that "the motion of the last meeting to give Wm. Wait \$36. to frame the building be rescinded and that he have \$40 for said work. Motion carried".

As to the total cost of the building and furnishing, the writer can only offer this entry of May 1st, 1865; Total expended to date, \$1,295.24". But we must note that bricks, timbers and free labour on the part of many people made the project possible. As in church buildings projects today, there were numerous meetings of the building committee and notes on some of these meetings follow:

"Moved by Bro. Bainard and seconded by Br. Saywell that Mr. Wait's tender for pulpit and pewing the chapel be received and that he have the job at \$90. by giving suitable security for the good and proper performance of the work. Carried".

"Messrs. Halls and Thompson his two securities for \$400."

"On February 1st, 1859, four of the building committee met in the vestry (Talbot St. Church, St. Thomas ) and signed both the above contracts".

"On February, 15th, the building committee met and requested Bro. McIntyre 'to get what sawed timber is required from St. Thomas on or before Friday next .... and that Bro. Weldon and Bro. McIntyre see to the getting out of the balance of timber from the woods and draw the same and that Bro. Saywell attend to getting the blocks and drawing the same".

There are many more meetings recorded with every possible point taken care of by motion and by signed contracts with the signatures backed by cash penalties should the terms and time limits be not lived up to.

It would seem that the opening day was also thoroughly planned and was most successful as mentioned before. The offerings for the three services are given as \$28.28 $\frac{1}{2}$ . On Monday, June 27th, a "Tea Meeting" was given in the new church and \$94.49 was taken in. Such a method of financing seemed sound and a second gathering was arranged and brought in \$54.40.

In the last months of 1859 and in 1860 additional subscriptions were taken, some promissory notes were given for \$40 and various sums with interest at 10 and 12 percent. In 1861 we find this item, "The above sum of \$40 was the last sum borrowed by the church and is now discharged and the church is free of debt". In this same year the church was insured for \$500 with premium note for \$10., a hymn book for the pulpit was bought for \$1.25, and two iron scrapers for the church doors cost 63¢. The writer well remembers the two big black box stoves used to heat the new building bought, according to the old book, one from Henry Brown for \$12 with 64 lengths of stove pipe at \$13.60 and a square of zinc to put under stoves costing \$3.42 including some elbows. Then Samuel Stacey was paid \$9 for the second box stove.

In 1859, four collections were taken and \$7.24 was raised to buy candles and matches, for the chapel must be well lighted. For this sum, 50 lbs. of candles and some matches were purchased. The first purchase of candles was on Nov. 28, 1859, and the last one mentioned was on Feb 15th, 1864 so that the cost of lighting that large building amounted to approximately \$1.45 a year. It is interesting to note that many evening meetings were called to meet "at early candle light" and many monthly meetings were arranged for at the time of month when the moon was at the right stage to light the settlers to and from their homes.

In 1863 a new project was carried through when this church raised \$97. to help pay for a new parsonage at Talbot Street.

The names of the building committee have already been given and at the date of opening the church we find the following:

"June 26th, 1859, the following names is the list of trustees of the Town Line Church being the Wesleyan Methodist Church opened on the 26th day of June A.D. 1859 --

Hugh McIntrye, Richard Bainard, Neil McIntyre, William Coulter, Charles Potticary, William Saywell and William Weldon."

Two pages dated 1871 give the names of all members at that time of the Town Line Church and in this list we find that there were sixty-four members. At that time Talbot Street had thirty-seven members and Salt Creek had twelve and these three groups composed the circuit at that time.

We owe a great debt to these old pioneers of one hundred years ago who laid the foundations of a good society. They were men and women of character and good deeds who brought with them from the old land their intense religious faith and succeeded in establishing their places of worship wherever they went and

so we have collected these memoirs to pass on as a sincere tribute to their good lives.

In 1895 the present brick church was built on the same spot and the old church was sold to Daniel McAlpine and moved straight North to a spot near the next corner, where it stands to this day a monument to good material and honourable builders.

Frank Bainard,

Lambeth, Ontario.

RECEIVED FROM THE Archivist- HISTORIAN OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA  
Feb 1958.

#### TOWN LINE CHURCH

The appointment in which this church had its origin is first mentioned in the records of the Wesleyan Methodist Church under the name of "Musgrove's Branch", a name that it carried for two years, then becoming known as the "Townline Branch". The first reference to the congregation which it has been possible to find in the records available in the Central Archives occurs in the year 1851. The Christian Guardian of December 10th of that year carries an announcement of the missionary meetings to be held on the St. Thomas Circuit, and one of the places mentioned is "Musgroves". The congregation would in all probability antedate this year, for missionary meetings were not usually held unless the appointment, was well established; also, the list of subscribers to the missionary funds of the Methodist Church is longer than that usually found in a newly opened appointment. The names of these families were: Brainard (the Misses Brainard were collectors, as also Miss Jane Potticary), Sewell McIntyre, Musgrove, Auckland, Meadows, McTavish, Potticary, Coulter, Lindsey, and Bolsond.

Another missionary meeting was held at Musgrove's the latter part of 1852, for the Guardian of January 5, 1853, carries a report of the meeting at which Brother H. McIntire (sic) was in the chair: "Good congregation; good singing; good subscriptions and a good collection in advance of last year." The Missionary Report for that year also mentions "Musgrove's Branch" on the St. Thomas circuit. The families mentioned were Bainard, McIntyre, Coulter, Dixon Crandall Potticary, Whitwan, Saywell, Lindsay, Musgrove, Sewell, Dowdell, McTavish, McIntyre, Hopkins, and Meadows.

in 1854 the name of the appointment changed to Town Line. It may be of interest to note that the name of "Musgrove" disappears from the list of contributors at this time, though most of the others continue. Another item of interest is that the Rev. James Musgrove, as will later appear, was one of the preachers at the opening of the Church. Whether there was any family connection cannot be determined from the obituary notice of the latter appearing in the Minutes of Conference. The names listed under "Town Line Branch" in 1854-55 were Bainard, Wright, McIntyre, Saywell, Lewis, Legg, Coulter, Wheldon, McTavish, Potticary, Daubney, Meadows, Mountford, Henderson. In 1856-57 they were Bainard, Calcott, McIntyre, Wheldon, Saywell, Coulter, Potticary, Callahan, Whitlock, Anderson McLarty, Wright, Lindsay and McTavish.

In 1859 a church was opened at the Town Line appointment. A copy of the notice appearing in the Christian Guardian is attached, as also an account of the opening taken from Home Journal of St. Thomas. As will be noticed the Town Line Church is referred to as being  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles North of St. Thomas. Families connected with the church remained much the same. The names listed in Missionary Reports for 1860-61 were Bainard, Potticary, McIntyre, Stacy, Saywell, Lindsay, Coulter, Colcott, Whitlock, Hill, Ferres, Caswell, Tucker, Whitwam, Freeman, Simmons; and in 1870-71 they were Bainard, Weldon, McIntyre, Calcott, Saywell, White, Auckland and Whitwam.

The Town Line appointment was part of the St. Thomas Circuit until 1871, when it became one of the appointments on the newly formed Yarmouth Circuit. With the formation of Sparta Circuit in 1875, Town Line became part of Talbotville Circuit, along with Talbotville, Salem, and Delaware, S/H. appointments. The family names listed at this time were Bainard, Legg, Stacey, Slieth, McIntyre, Saywell and Tucker.

A New Church was built at the Town Line appointment in 1895. An account of the opening of this church appeared in the Christian Guardian of September 11th of that year. A copy of this account is attached. The families mentioned at this time were Calcott, Bainard, Saywell, Legg, Blewett, Burrett and Lindsay.

The spelling of names is variable. Inclusion of a family name does not necessarily imply that the family were "Methodist", as subscriptions were sometimes received from those of other denominations friendly to missions.

#### Ministers serving the Town Line Church

(as taken from the Minutes of Conference of the Wesleyan Methodist Church ) and Methodist Church of Canada.

#### St. Thomas Circuit:

- 1851 - John Bredin, Joseph Hugill, Edward H. Dewart
- 1852 - Richard Whiting, Edward H. Dewart
- 1853 - Richard Whiting, Joseph Hugill
- 1854 - William Price, Samuel E. Maudsley
- 1855 - William Price.
- 1856 - William Price
- 1857 - Noble F. English
- 1858 - Francis Berry
- 1859 - Francis Berry
- 1860 - William McCullough, Samuel C. Philp, Jr.
- 1861 - William McCullough
- 1862 - William McCullough
- 1863 - William Ames
- 1864 - William Ames
- 1865 - William C. Clarke
- 1866 - William C. Clarke
- 1867 - Lewis Warner, Thomas M. Campbell
- 1868 - Lewis Warner, Joseph M. Hagar, B.A.
- 1869 - J. Herbert Starr, John Smiley, B.A.

St. Thomas Circuit, Cont's.

1870 - J. Herbert Starr, Robert H. Hall  
1871 - Thomas Hadwin

TALBOTVILLE CIRCUIT.

1875 - William Birks  
1876 - William Birks  
1877 - Thomas W. Jackson  
1878 - Thomas W. Jackson  
1879 - Thomas W. Jackson  
1880 - Edwin Holmes  
1881 - Daniel W. Thompson  
1882 - Deniel W. Thompson  
1883 - Joseph Ward

TALBOTVILLE AND TOWN LINE CIRCUIT.

1896 - Rev. David Rogers  
1898-1900. F. C. Sanderson  
1901-1904. - C.C. Couzens  
1904-1908 - R. Redmand  
1908-1910 - J. F. Sutcliffe  
1910-1914 - John Holmes  
1915-1916 - John Mahan  
1916-1920 - J. Kennedy, B.D.  
1920-1922 - J. M. Colling.  
1922- 1924 - J. Melvin Keys  
1927-1928- C.T.T. Couzens  
1929-1930 - R. C. Copeland  
1930 - 1936 Samuel Bridgette  
1936- 1938 T. Sawyer  
1938- 1940 - J.w. Hedley  
1940-1945 - Harry Royle.

TALBOTVILLE, Town Line and Yarmouth Centre.

1945- 1951 Angus Taylor  
1951- 1953 - S.Scott Milley  
1953 - 1955 - Supply - Currie Winlow  
1955- 1958 - R. Evan McLagan  
1958-1959 - Supply Mr. Pease  
Rev. Cline  
R.C. Copeland.  
1959- George A. Shields.

TOWN LINE CHURCH.

"The new Wesleyan Methodist Church, Town Line, four and a half miles north of St. Thomas will (D.V.) be dedicated to the worship of God on Sabbath, the 26th instant.

The Rev. Enoch Wood, Superintendent of Missions, will preach at the 10 $\frac{1}{2}$  o'clock, a.m, and Rev. James Musgrove, Chairman of the Chatham District, at 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  o'clock p.m, and the Rev. R. Cooney, D.D at the 6 $\frac{1}{2}$  o'clock in the evening. A collection will betaken up at each of the above wervices, in aid of the trust fund.

Francis Berry

St.Thomas, June 11, 1859.