

the Missionary report was \$638.34 received, and Ladies Aid \$1,663.50 had been taken in. Much of this money has been given for relief or on any other need that might arise. At present we are supporting and educating 2 orphans in Sierre Leone, Africa. Countless boxes of knitted goods, quilts and used clothing are packed and sent to Korea or wherever needed.

Music has played an important part in this community and countryside for its especially fine male singers. In the early years a splendid quartette consisting of Charles Mistele, Michael Baker, Jacob Zoller and Bill Staebler were an acknowledged group of fine entertainment. On January 22, 1932 a group of men know as the Churchville Octette, having been organized by Arlie Plyley and Rev. Meyer, made their first public appearance with Ruth Meyer as pianist. This group of men were namely:

1st tenors	- Lewis Miller, Maurice Mistele
2nd tenors	- Howard Krieter, Martin Miller
1st bass	- Chester Armstrong, Martin Hux
2nd bass	- Harold Baker, and Arlie Plyley

This Octette is still going strong, although the original members have been added to, and some moved away. This Octette has been sought after by nearly every church in the Community for any special occasion. A few years ago they sang at an Anniversary Service in Chelsea Avenue Evangelical Church in Detroit.

In the past Marjorie Plyley, Jean Miller, Ruth Meyers and Florence Hessenaur have served as pianists. Mr. Harvey Miller is the present pianist. And Mr. Arlie Plyley has directed the Choirs and musical organizations of the church for 43 years or more. Mr. Plyley has a rich deep bass voice and can really get music out of any group of Singers.

Speaking of music, I would like to make special mention of Mr. Harvey Miller, who has played piano and organ since the age of 13 years in the Alborough Church and is the present organist in the church. In his always dependable manner and genial disposition he is an inspiration

as he peals out the beautiful songs of Zion every Sunday morning and I am sure every member appreciates the service he has rendered us through music.

As this History is completed, I feel that many names have not been mentioned, but one thing that is certain, when the Great Book is opened, no one who has been faithful will be missed on that Great Day.

Signed: Florence E. Hessenaur

Dated: February 28, 1955.

The contractors were Messrs. House and Achison of Wardsville, and the new church was ready and opened in November 1877. They had a fairly large congregation and the little church flourished. The first minister of whom we have an account was Rev. C.W. Bristell who served until 1881.

This was a Methodist Church whose tenure of office for its ministers was 4 years, so a large number of ministers served in the little white church. A number of them became very prominent in the Church at large. Among the best known were Rev. McVitty, A.J. Langford, who later was minister of St. Clair in Toronto, Snell, Thompson, later Dr. Thompson who at this writing is still living in Windsor, Rev. Shaw, Haylock, Snider, and George Hoskins. All of these men gave excellent service.

We were fortunate too in having a splendid Choir. The first Organist and leader was Miss Elizabeth Brown. When she left town, Mrs. Wm. Morris took her place and played for over 10 years. She was followed by Mrs. JohnMcCater. A number of the ministers had daughters who very often helped out. A short time after the church was built, a white brick house directly across the street was purchased from Mr. and Mrs. James Carter for use as a parsonage.

As I have said before, money was scarce. Salaries were low, but the people were generous. Those were horse-and-buggy days and rarely did the minister go into the country for a day's calling but he came home with the buggy loaded with oats for Dobbin and many a treat for the minister and his family. This was not given as charity but in love and a desire to share, and so the years rolled on. In April 1910 the church was completely renovated. In an account of the re-opening service it was said that this was one of the prettiest little churches in Western Ontario.

But dark days were coming to the church, so loved and worked for,

and many of the older members had passed on to Higher Service. Some had moved away and there was no one to take their places when the church, once filled, finally had only a handful at a gathering. It was impossible to raise the salary or the expenses of the church, but the congregation struggled on. At last even they had to acknowledge defeat and early in the year 1919 they petitioned the London Conference of the Methodist Church to allow them to close the church and sell the buildings. Even the heads of the Conference could see no use of holding on and permission was given and in December 1919 the church was sold to the Christian Church of Rodney for the sum of \$600.00.

And so the little white church was down, but not beaten. There are still many who have lovely memories of hours spent within her walls. She did a good work and it was no disgrace in a town of many churches to fold her wings and slip away.

Signed: Frances Dayus Gaynor (Mrs. John D.)

THE RODNEY UNITED CHURCH

The formation of the United Church of Canada, through the action of the Congregational, Methodist and Presbyterian denominations in Canada, had an unexpected result in Rodney, where there was neither a Congregational nor a Methodist congregation. The Presbyterians who decided not to concur in the union of churches proved to be slightly in the majority, and it was the minority, though strong and active, which formed the Rodney United Church congregation in 1925.

The building of a church and a manse was the immediate necessity. Also there was the need of providing the other equipment essential in carrying on the worship and work. At first accommodation was kindly made available by other denominations, and the Rev. E.J. Wolland continued to be the pastor. The first session was: the Moderator, Rev. Wolland, the clerk, D.G. McPherson, and John McLean, G.P. Schleihauf, and James A. McLean. Under effective organization the site at the intersection of Stinson and Moriah streets was purchased, and building operations planned.

The Rev. Donald Stewart became minister in July 1927, not long after the laying of the corner stone of the new church. Under his wise and kindly care, with an energetic building committee, of which the late Dr. H. McLean Paterson was a prominent member, the church was completed and dedicated on November 6, 1927. The Rev. A. McGillivray D.D. of Toronto was the speaker, assisted by the Rev. J.P. Falconer, the Rev. Donald Stewart and neighbouring ministers.

The elders were: Moderator Rev. D. Stewart, clerk James A. McLean, Wm. Goodwin, Philip Schleihauf, Alexander McIntyre, John Moore, and John McLean.

The Board of Managers were:

Howard W. Thomson, chairman	A.A. Sim	Wm. Goodwin
Thomas Davies	James A. McLean	Wm. Patterson
Peter McCallum	John Moore	George Corder
Philip Schleihauf	James A. Kelly	J. Allen Fletcher

Treasurer, Dr. A.C. Steele Missionary Treas., Dr. H.McL. Paterson

The Trustees were: D.M. Campbell, Dr. H.McL Paterson, and Alexander Fleming.

The Organist and choir leader: Mrs. C.W. Ludy.

On the lot south of the church a modern manse was built. In 1927 Mrs. M.A. Markle made a fine donation towards a new pipe organ. On February 24, 1928, the organ was dedicated and a recital held. The congregation raised three thousand dollars that year -- about fourteen hundred dollars by the Ladies Aid Society for the organ. The same year a manse fund was started, and a piano was purchased for the Sabbath School.

During the years, the church has been generously remembered by members who were called away, namely; Mrs. Mary Jane Ford, Mrs. Margaret Finlayson, Mrs. A. Poole, Archie McPherson, and Mrs. Bessie McGugan. In 1936 a gift was made by the late Dr. H.McL. Paterson which paid off the last liability against the building fund. The church was clear of debt, and even of more importance, the congregation was growing.

In 1944 Mrs. Rose Eberle became organist and choir leader. She was succeeded in 1946 by Mrs. Ronald Beattie. In 1949 chimes were installed in the organ.

The Rev. T.A. Symington came to the charge in 1939. He was succeeded by the Rev. Robt. E. Southcott in 1943. In 1946 the Rev. A.E. Millson began his ministry here in July. In 1951 the Rev. E.R.

May was inducted into the charge. In 1954 the Rev. Duncan McTavish came.

In 1954 the church and manse were completely redecorated.

The congregation is active, well-organized, and growing. A notable feature is the number of willing and efficient workers of all ages. There is an intelligent, confident appreciation of the responsibility of Christian churchmen toward the community, and before the whole world in these troubled times. May that appreciation deepen and spread!

Written by: Dr. A.C. Steele

Signed

" HISTORY OF THE RODNEY CEMETERY "

- Written by Mrs. A.J. Liebner,

On August 24th., 1895, A.J. Liebner called a meeting of Ratepayers of the Village of Rodney to consider the advisability of purchasing land for new cemetery; as three and one half acres of land were available on Queen Street West, part of the north half of lots five and six on Concession Eight of Aldborough and owned by O.R.G. Stinson.

The following names of persons who attended the meeting and were elected as directors by ballot were: N.S. Lusty, T.C. Campbell, A.J. Liebner, J.B. Campbell, E.A. Hugill, O.R.G. Stinson, J.J. Mistele, D.H. McRitchie, H.F. Jell. At the time of writing one survivor is still living, D.H. McRitchie of Victoria, B.C.

A company was formed known as "Rodney Cemetery Company" and the land purchased from Mr. Stinson for the price of \$350.00, each member of the company donating \$25.00 capital Stock.

The first Grounds Committee being J.J. Mistele, E.A. Hugill and T.C. Campbell to superintend surveying, grading, and fencing of land; the grounds committee given power to borrow \$200.00 to complete work at hand. Each shareholder was donated one cemetery plot in consideration of services rendered. The price of lots being \$10 - \$8 - \$5, according to their location.

At special meeting on December 9th., 1895, Mr. Peter McArthur was paid \$30.00 for labour, stumping, ploughing and levelling ground, on condition that he purchase one lot in cemetery at set price, which he did.

" RODNEY CEMETERY CO. BY-LAWS "

1. - This company shall be known as The Rodney Cemetery Company.
2. - The officers shall consist of 9 Directors elected annually by shareholders on the third Monday of January in each year and who shall from among themselves elect President, Secretary,

and Treasurer, who shall hold office till successors are appointed.

3. - All Officers and Directors of this Company shall be elected by ballot.
4. - The Directors' at their first meeting each year shall choose a sexton and Ground's Committee consisting of the Secretary and two directors; the Ground's Committee shall have supervision of the grounds and the sexton shall be under their direction.
5. - No fence or enclosure shall be erected on the grounds or around any plot to exceed 30 inches in height, nor shall any bush, shrub or tree be planted which shall exceed $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet in height when full grown, by owners of any plots.
6. - The owners of all plots in which burials have been made shall keep the same in a proper state of repair, by keeping down the growth of all obnoxious weeds, briars and grass, and by causing all monuments or headstones to be properly cared for and in any event of any failure to comply with the above the grounds committee shall have power to have same done by the sexton and charged to the plot owner.
7. - No plots shall be raised above the level of the surface of the surrounding ground and the height of graves shall in no case exceed 6 inches.
8. - All graves shall be dug and filled by the sexton, who shall also superintend the erection of all mounds. He shall be entitled to a fee for each grave by ground's committee.
9. - Any of the foregoing By-laws may be changed by a two-thirds vote of the Directors at any regular meeting, notice being given at previous meeting.

DATED AT RODNEY - March 23rd., 1900.

- A.J. Liebner and E.A. Hugill,