

At the beginning of the second World War, our hall was again the busy headquarters for Red Cross work, enormous quantities of sewing, quilts and knitting being completed each month. Mrs. M. G. Mc.Laws was our first capable leader, Mrs. Louis Johnson succeeding her. Two large carnivals sponsored by Yarmouth Red Cross, were held on the farm of Mr. and Mrs. M.G.Mc.Laws, the proceeds being added to the Red Cross fund. Each Summer, as long as the war continued, our members in co-operation with the women of Union United Church, made large quantities of jam for Britain, grateful Mrs. H.G.Malloy & Mrs.L.S.Johnson being conveners of this work. letters of thanks being received from the recipients. Through the war years, contributions were made to countless appeals for monetary assistance. At the close of hostilities, our members used funds on hand to establish a loan cupboard, containing articles such as an invalid's chair, stretcher, hospital bed, crutches, etc. which are loaned in times of illness.

In June 1947 a number of our members attended the 50th Anniversary of the Womens' Institute at Guelph and in August 1953 our Branch was well represented at the "Canada Day" pageant in Toronto- two outstanding events long to be remembered in the history of the Womens' Institute.

In March 1951 the first volume of our "Tweedsmuir Village History" was completed. We of the "Tweedsmuir" committee, are deeply indebted to the many older residents (since deceased) who provided valuable information of pioneer days. The first surveying in South Yarmouth was done in 1799, the Village of Union and surrounding country being rich in historical interest.

Our Institute members felt privileged to contribute to the "Dorothy Futcher Scholarship" fund established in recognition of her splendid service given our organization, as a former Provincial President. Our Branch was also pleased to donate to the "Centennial Scholarship" available for Elgin girls, commemorating the Centennials of Elgin County and St.Thomas in 1952.

During the Centennial celebrations, our Institute did it's small share in assisting during this memorable occasion.

Our Presidents, through the years, are listed below:-

Mesdames. Stephen Haight, Joseph King, Stella Waite, Flora Sanders, Leonard Fish, Clarence Jolley, Miss.Lillian Freeman, Mesdames.Isaac Wilson, Kenneth Russ, Roy Johnson, Chas. Ingram, O. Hindley, Clayton Axford, Morrison Mc.Laws.

In reading the minutes from year to year, there is scarcely a meeting where a worthwhile donation has not been made to some worthy cause. There have been many splendid papers prepared by our members and a great many guest speakers, outstanding in their professions and vocations, dealing with various subjects in which we are all greatly interested.

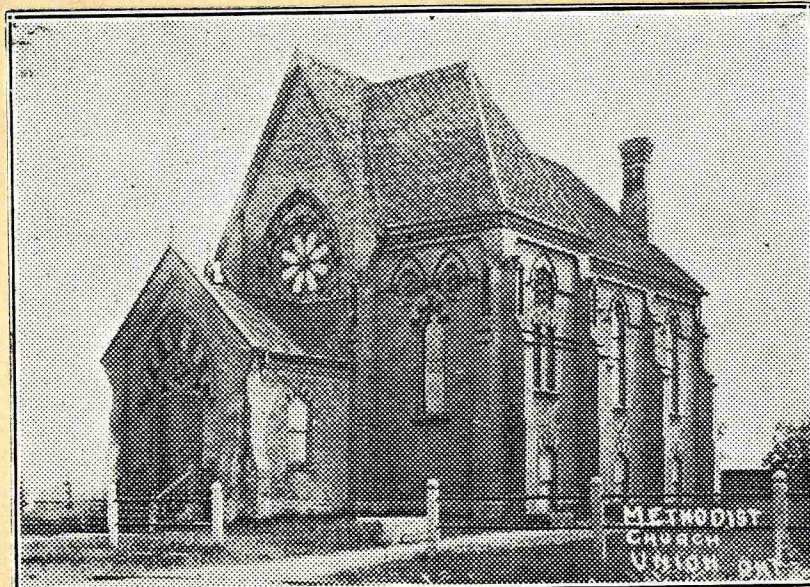
In reviewing the many projects large and small, which we have sponsored through the years, let us not under-estimate the benefits we have derived from meeting to-gether from month to month or the many occasions when we have met with neighboring Institutes, providing pleasant social inter-course and the exchanging of ideas, while our District Annuals and Conventions have furnished profitable instruction and inspiration which make for greater understanding and a broader vision in our fields of service.

In closing, may I quote a verse of Evan Mc.Coll, the Scottish poet:-

"Let us then, in loving mood,
Each help each, through life's short span.
If we can't do all we would,
Let us do the best we can."



A group of Union and South Yarmouth residents at a gathering at Springbank Park, London, Ont., soon after the close of the First World War, an invitation being extended them to be present at the opening of The Queen Alexandra Sanatorium at Byron, Ont.



The old church, erected in 1876-77.

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF UNION CHURCH

Nov. 1947

A little group of people gathering for a religious service, in 1820, in the log house of Mr. David Burgess on the 2nd Concession of Yarmouth, formed the nucleus of the first Methodist Church at Union. Not every week did they have a preaching service, for it was the days of the saddle-bag preacher of pioneer times. The preacher was Mr. Ryerson, propably John Ryerson, an older brother of Egerton Ryerson. We know that he was stationed at Long Point in 1820 and he took long preaching trips in the scattered settlements.

For many years the home of David Burgess was regularly opened for meetings. Later they were held in a school house a mile north. The Baptists also held meetings there. As Union was becoming a trading and business centre, the Methodists decided to make it their religious centre as well.

It is not known when Union first became a regular preaching appointment but in 1836 St. Thomas circuit was formed and shortly after, regular services were held at Union. Rev. Conrad Vandessen was the first minister stationed at St. Thomas and he was followed by Reverends Fawcett, Norris, Montgomery, Waldron, Creighton, Snider, Philip, Pollard, Bredin.

Port Stanley circuit was set off from St. Thomas in 1854 and Union was an appointment. Rev. Francis Chapman was the first resident minister at Port Stanley. Following him were Geo. Cochran (afterward sent as first foreign missionary to Japan) Campbell, Walker, Will, Latimer, Sexsmith, Lund, and German. In 1877 during the pastorate of Rev. A.G. Harris the present church was built.

The first Methodist church was built on the east side of the road part way up the hill, on the property since owned by Mr. Frank Montgomery. It was a frame building and set quite close to the road. On June 17, 1850, 1 1/2 acres on the west side of the plank road beyond the top of the hill was bought for church and burial purposes by the trustees of the Wesleyan Methodist church from John/Pearly ^{and} (THAYER) Willis, the sum of 15 pounds being paid for the same. To this property, ^{north} on the/east corner, the church was moved, and a porch was added.

The original trustees of the Union church were Samuel Ferris, John Peacock, Randolph Johnson, Daniel Burgess, Chauncey Burgess, Edward Forknall and Jas. McKay. As time went on the church building was found inadequate, so early in 1876 a public meeting was called to consider the advisability of erecting a new one. The motion to build a new church was made by Elias Long and seconded by Josiah Long. The new building was to be in sight of the village, to be a brick church 50 ft by 35 ft, with full-sized basement. The site was purchased from Mrs. Susan ^(THAYER) Hepburn for \$30. The trustees at that time were Josiah Long, Chauncey Burgess, Christopher Moore, Benjamin

Wintermute, D. C. Leitch & John Edjecombe. The members of the building committee were Josiah Long, Charles King, Malcolm McIntyre, Hiram Kettle, Elias Long (treasurer) and Christopher Moore, secretary. The contractors were Sanders & Ponsford, the cost to be \$3,327, D. Kilpatrick of St. Thomas, the architect. For heating, two stoves were to be placed in the centre of the basement on each side and for lighting one 6 light chandelier and 12 bracket lamps.

On May 24, 1877, the corner stone was laid and in Nov. 18th the church was dedicated. The ladies served dinner and supper for the sum of 25 cents.

From time to time needed improvements have been made ⁱⁿ 1898 a furnace was installed, in 1921, hydro replaced the Coleman lamps. At various times auditoriums and schoolroom have been re-decorated, a kitchen was added.

The original church building was moved into the village, the site now occupied by Dr. Malloy's house, where it was used as a dwelling house. Later it was moved south of the corner blacksmith-shop for a storeroom and finally it took fire and was burned.

Pastors since the day of A. G. Harris have been Jas. Whiting, Jas. Gray, W. J. Ford, J. W. Freeman, R. C. Parsons, R. D. Hamilton, J. B. Aylesworth, A. Going, J. G. Fallis, J. W. Holmes, E. Powell, A. E. Lloyd, H. W. McTavish, J. J. Durrant, F. T. Kingham, J. N. Gould, G. C. Gifford, W. R. Hughes, R. B. Cummings, N. J. Woods, C. W. Down, J. G. Barnard.

During the time of Rev. R. D. Hamilton, 1893, a probationer was appointed for one year term, this continued until 1913.

Among the notable figures in the early history was Christopher Moore, for 40 years he was secretary of the trustee Board, he filled the positions of caretaker of the church, caretaker of the cemetery and secretary of the building committee. Before the coming

of Josiah Long, he pitched the tunes for the hymns with a tuning fork. Josiah Long was choir leader, from the time of erection of the church until 1900, also held the office of S.S. Supt. for 26 years. This term was exceeded by the late A. J. Olde, who was superintendant over 29 years.

The first Sunday School was organized in 1854 with Joseph Wintermute as Superintendant. Meetings were held in the hall of the Sons of Temperance until the church was built.

The Women's Missionary Society was organized in 1886 by Mrs. Burns, Mrs. Baird of St. Thomas and Miss Agnes Wintermute, under appointment as missionary to Japan, where she laboured until recent years as Mrs. H. H. Coates. The W. M. S. celebrated their Diamond Jubilee in 1946.

Before the organization of the Ladies' Aid there was a Committee of Ladies who looked after the annual tea meeting and parsonage needs. In 1902 the first Ladies' Aid was organized with Mrs. Zack Hathaway as President. Since church Union the society is known as the Women's Association. At the time of the Diamond Jubilee in 1937 about 700 people were served at the dinner, a record in number.

The Epworth League of Christian Endeavour was organized in 1892 under the pastorate of Rev. R. D. Hamilton and functioned for many years. Since church union it has been designated "The Young Peoples' Union". From its members have gone forth three young men as preachers of the gospel, Rev. John Davidson, Rev. Walter Donnelly and Frank Burgess.

This article was contributed by Miss E. Matheson.)

Material for this sketch was obtained from the booklet issued at the Diamond Jubilee in 1937.