

FIRST YARMOUTH BAPTIST CHURCH

(sometimes known as Plains Baptist)



SEP  
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\* They were set off as a branch of Iona on 5 Nov. 1830

In the early 1800's, several Baptist families settled rather close to the Sparta road, two or three miles west of the village of Sparta. In <sup>early</sup> 1820's they met at the home of Anderson Montross for religious services, and irregularly met in other homes, until 1831 when they organized the First Yarmouth Baptist Church, sometimes ~~known~~ known as Plains Baptist Church. They held regular meetings after that, often using the Plains school house, which was situated then on the corner of the present church yard.

Mar 9 1833

The organizer of this church was known as Elder McDormand, a man born near Iona, though he could not read or write, understand Christian doctrines and knew how to teach them. During his early days as a preacher, he was forced to call upon those who could, to read the scriptures and the text during his services. However, he married a school teacher who soon taught him to read and write and so was able to branch out in his field of Christian work. He was known to be so fervent in his address and prayers that tears often came to his eyes, and he became known from Vittoria to Palmyra as an evangelist and organizer of churches.

In <sup>3-1838</sup> 1846 it was found the membership was large enough to build



a building for worship. A half acre (or acre) of land was purchased from Jesse Zavitz about one mile east of Union on the Sparta-Union road, and a building was erected on it by Jacob Zavitz, a millwright. Its first trustees were: Anderson Montross Sr., William Yorke, Anderson Montross Jr., and John Lanning Sr.; their first pastor being Elder McDormand. The Deacons for the new church were John Lanning, William Yorke and Nelson Van Buskirk; John Lanning was also appointed secretary-treasurer of the new church, a position which he held until his death, forty-one years later.

At the same time, <sup>IN 1846</sup> a cemetery plot was purchased on the knoll across the road, from William VanHorne. The cemetery is still kept up by the Baptist Church to-day. The church building has been built larger and of cement blocks instead of logs.

In the summer of 1869, twenty-one members living near the village of Sparta, decided to break away and form a new church of their own. And that autumn a new frame church was built at the west end of the village of Sparta, known then and now as the Sparta Baptist Church. The Rev. Alexander MacDonald was the first preacher at a salary of \$500.00 per year, services began Oct. 31st 1869. The charter members were as follows: John McDiarmid, John Bates, Henry Doggrell, Andersin Montross, Hugh McDiarmid, Peter McDiarmid Jr Archibald McDiarmid, Willard Mills, John Grice, Samuel Crumb, and sisters Christine McDiarmid, Eliza Doggrell, Lydia Montross, Jane Dangerfield, Pamillia McDiarmid, Emeline Millard, Amelia Dangerfield, Marcella Dangerfield, Beatrice Dangerfield and Anzaletta Wallrath.

About the same time, Stephen Griffin and William Taylor were active in preaching a free-will Baptist doctrine in the region south of Sparta, forming churches in Dexter and Groves-end. A Baptist church was formed in New Sarum in the year 1890. As some of the



members of First Yarmouth withdrew to join churches closer to them, the membership became smaller for a time, but their faith was strong and still remains so to-day, the church having had to weather many trials and tribulations.

The men who have officiated in the pulpit of the First Yarmouth Baptist church, as listed by John Lanning Jr.. are as follows--:

*use my list of ministers*

Elder McDormad--1831

Elder Baker-- 1841 (a New Sarum man)

Elder Mills --1841

Elder Rowland of StThomas (part time during 1860)

Elder Smith --1860--7

Alex McDonald --1871-72

Rev, Story--1874

Mr. Trennanian--1875-78

Mr. Gray ---1888-89

Dr. Davidson --1890

Mr. Lang --1893

Mr. Rice --1895-96

Mr. Trickery, Mr. Sawyerly, J.J. Baker--1900-01

Mr. Kilpatrick --1902

Frank Davidson --1903

Mr. McLarin ---1904

Mr. Marshal Sr.-- 1905

Mr. Reekie -- 1906-07

Wm. Westell ---

John Marshall ----1917

Mr. St. Dalmas --

Harry Bower --- 1920

Mr. France ---1924



Charles Waddell ---1925-30

Maitland Jones --1930

G. W. Medley ---1930

G. W. Sherman -----1940-59

Rev. Seymour Boyce, B.A. of British west Indies began pastorate 1959.  
(some of the dates may be incorrect)

In Sept. of 1931 the church celebrated the 100th anniversary  
of its organization, Rev.G.M. Medley, the pastor preached at these  
services.

by-- Mrs. Lena Axford.

Rev.. Seymour Boyce 1959- 1963..  
Rev.. Anthony Penner 1964- 1967..  
Rev.. Brian Sherry 1967- 1969..  
Rev.. John Dickinson 1969- 1973..

Mrs.. Lena Axford..

Clara Ingram..

*The new  
church should be  
mentioned*



D E X T E R   S C H O O L   1 8 9 8



TEACHER

- Edith Helen Knight

FRONT ROW

- L. to R.

Bill Somerville, Leslie Parker, Lloyd Parker,  
Skelton Armstrong, Mary Jones, Stanley Jones,  
Alice Pfeffer, Irene Jones, Daisy Vansyckle,  
Mae Vansyckle, Ethel B. Spitler.

SECOND ROW

- John Armstrong, Dan Sprague, Adrian Prowse,  
John Jones, George Jones, Roland Parker,  
Clarence Parker, Edith Parker.

THIRD ROW

- John Somerville, William Bolt, Gustin Armstrong,  
Percy Jones, Roy Somerville, Frances Pfeffer,  
Eva Armstrong, Lulu McDowell, Eva Jones,  
Maggie Jones.



## Dexter Public School Info Howard & Eunice Parker

In 1844 School Section #3 was formed. In 1845 a frame school was built on Lot 14 Concession one Yarmouth. The frame building was replaced by a white brick building <sup>42' x 30'</sup> in 1877. In 1901 one-eighth acre of land was added to the west of the school grounds. In 1903 a woodshed was built. When the old church shed was sold in 1930 the land was added to the east of the school ground.

On 31 Dec 1844, Daniel Harvey, Superintendent of Common Schools, Yarmouth, sent notice to the freeholders of School District Three to hold a meeting at the schoolhouse in the said district on the 14th Jan 1845 at 4:00 P.M. to elect school trustees for their district which included Lots number 10 to 16 in the 1st Concession and the south half of Lots number 11 to 18 and the west half of lot 19 in the second con. At that meeting Asa Fordyce, Wm Parker & James Vansickle were appointed as Trustees. Thomas Sprague was the chairman of the meeting & John Lanning was appointed secretary. Among the early settlers were Irish, Scottish, English & Pennsylvania Dutch.

At a trustee's meeting on 22 March 1877, a motion was passed by the trustees authorizing the secretary to place the proper school seal on three notes of hand given in favour of John Vansickle of the value of \$400. - each for the purpose of building a new school house. Isaac H. Vansickle, W. E. Leadbeater & Nelson Parker were the trustees at that time.

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Start new paragraph → A box stove was used for heating.

The firewood burned in the early days was provided by each scholar. At an annual meeting of the rate payers in 1855 it was moved by the trustees that every person within the S. S. sending children shall provide one-fourth of a cord of wood per scholar per year to be brought within two months, upon a penalty of ten shillings per cord and Mr John Vansickle was appointed to furnish the neglected portion at the stipulated amount of the penalty.

Electricity was installed in January 1938.

In 1942 a space at the back of the classroom was partitioned off to make room for indoor toilets thus doing away with the outdoor type.

In 1950 the old wood stove was converted with an oil <sup>burner</sup> from a tobacco kiln in order to provide heat over night. This did not prove satisfactory and in 1957 a new oil furnace was installed. In the same year a doorway was made on the east side in place of the front window to provide an exit from the front in case of fire. Later cement steps replaced the old wooden ones at this exit.

At an annual school meeting 1959 the cost of providing paper cups for the children led to a discussion of piping water into the school. On further investigation and consultation with School & Health Inspectors the trustees decided to put on an addition on to provide better toilet facilities, a teacher's room, a furnace room and an entry hall that provided cloakroom space for the children. Shelves and cupboards were built in the classroom to give more space for library books and storage.

In 1968 the school board closed many of the area schools. Now the children ride the bus to modern facilities. Kindergarten & grades 3 to 8 go to Sparta and grades 1 & 2 attend school at Union.