

HISTORY OF SPARTA BAPTIST CHURCH (Cont'd.)

Rev. Waddell became pastor late in 1925 and stayed with the church until 1931. During his pastorate the sixtieth anniversary was held. He was followed by Rev. G. W. H. Medley who continued in the pastorate for six years. Rev. J. M. Jones, formerly of New Zealand, then took charge. His pastorate was another short one during 1937 and 1938. Rev. G. W. Sherman became pastor January 1939 and January 1948 started his ninth year in the pastorate. During his term the parsonage was re-sided and many added to the church by baptism.

During the years six members have been licensed to preach the gospel, namely, A. P. McDiarmid, John F. Mills, Deloss Moore, Freeman J. Scott, Wesley Gunn, and David Bebensee, four of them later being ordained ministers. Rev. Freeman J. Scott went to Bolivia as a Missionary, but could not stand the high altitude of the country. Miss Minnie Smiley spent one term in Burma as a Missionary, but retired on account of ill health.

The membership has never been large at any one time and although many hundreds have been baptized there are always removals to other communities.

Compiled by Miss Violet Laidlaw.

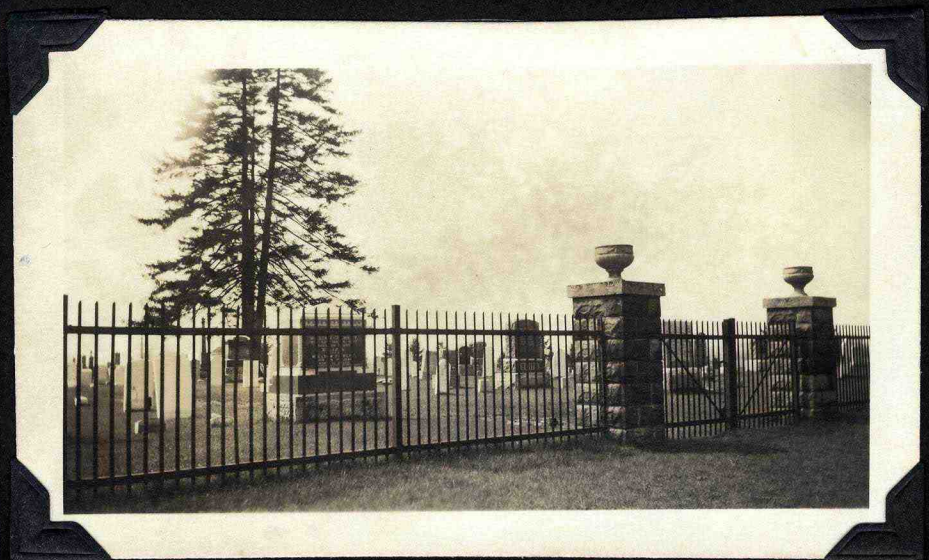
1939 - 1958	Rev. G. Sherman.
1959 - 1964	Rev. S. Boyce.
1964- 1967	Rev. A. Penner.
1968 - 1969	Rev. B. Sherry.
1969 - 1972	Pastor John Dickenson
1972- 1975	Rev. Gordon Hill
1975-	Rev. MALCOLM RUST



Friend's Cemetery.



South Cemetery.



TWEEDSMUIR TEA APRIL, 19, 1967

A Tweedsmuir Tea was held at the Forge by members of East Elgin W. I. Some came in Centennial dress and were welcomed by Mrs. Sam McLorn Pres. of Sparta W. I. and Mrs. Gowan Young President of East Elgin.

The centerpiece on the table was a grouping of dolls clad in Old Fashioned dresses and bonnets. These were made and arranged by Mrs. Mac Dufton and Mrs. Marie Tansley. A special area displayed the Tweedsmuir books and was in charge of their curators. An antique display was arranged by Mrs. Walter Rogers who was in charge. At intervals during the afternoon the history of the "Forge" was told by Mrs. Harold Nichol. The tea was very successful.

DEED OF FRIENDS' CEMETERY 1820

states -

"This indenture made at Yarmouth the 8th day of the 4th mo. 1820 - in the Province of Upper Canada, between Jonathan Doan Senour, of the said Township of Yarmouth, in the London District, farmer, of the first part and John Kipp and Wm. Harvey, Trustees of Friends' Society in trust of land and money belonging to said Society of Yarmouth in the London District, farmers of the other part, Witnesseth that the said J. Doan, Senour, for and in consideration of the sum of five shillings lawful money of said Province to him in hand paid by the said J. Kipp and Wm. Harvey - the receipt thereof is hereby acknowledged."

It goes on to say that this acre of land is "Granted, bargained, sold, aliened, transferred, to said trustees and their successors forever".

There are two pages in the Deed describing that the length is 14 chains and 32 links, etc., etc.

SPARTA SOUTH CEMETERY

The first public meeting was called January 25th, 1854, when John P. Vercoe was elected chairman and Jesse Kipp, Secretary-Treasurer, with three other men on the Trustee Board, viz: Hiram B. Smith, John McDowell and John A. Eakins.

On February 2nd, 1854 a bargain was made with Isaac Moore for the purchase of $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres of land to be used as a cemetery, at the price of \$170.00 to be paid in four yearly installments of \$42.50 and on October 24th, 1859 the Deed for the property was granted and registered in Registry office for Elgin County.

About 1930 another $\frac{1}{2}$ acre of land was obtained from Mr. E. A. Smith to be used as an extension and at that time the iron fence was erected along the road and the cemetery fenced all around.

S P A R T A - A village on Spring Creek (which furnishes power) in Yarmouth Township, Elgin County, ten miles southeast of St. Thomas, the county seat and nearest bank location, and six and a half east of White's on the L. & P. S. br. G. W. div. G. T. Ry, its nearest railway station. It contains Methodist, Baptist and Friends' churches and a public school, also flour and saw mills. Stages daily to St. Thomas, fare 50¢. Population 450. Telegraph, G. N. W. Mail daily; John A. Eakins, postmaster.

Boddington, George, physician
Campbell, D. N., waggonmaker
Campbell, painter
Carr, James, shoemaker
Cole, Wm., sawmill
Cornell, Wm., fruits
Darling, Thomas, fruits
Eakins, H. G., druggist
Eakins, John A., general store and commissioner
Fothergill, Peter, blacksmith
Fraser, Miss Mary, Dressmaker
Haight, Granville, Justice of peace
Grisdale, Wilford, harnessmaker
Gunn, Daniel, justice of peace
Hewet, Edward, butcher
Jay, Alvin H., sawmill and tanner
Jay, Charles, groceries and boots and shoes
Johnson, John, carpenter
Knott, Robert, flourmill
Leverton, J., butcher and live stock
Lincoln, Joseph, carpenter
Minard, John, chair manufacturer
Moedinger, Torris, cabinetmaker and undertaker
Murray, Andrew, blacksmith
O'Brien, John, carriagemaker
Pettet, Charles, harnessmaker
Pound, Asa, cheese manufacturer
Sanderson, Robert, physician
Scott, John W., cheese manufacturer
Shaw, George, blacksmith
Smale, Henry, builder
Smith, Edgar, dry goods and groceries
Spurr, Wm., shoemaker
Strasser, Frederick, stoves and tinware

- Taken from Ontario Gazetteer and Directory, 1888 - 9, published by R. L. Polk and Co., Toronto.



Saw Mill at Sparta built by the Doan's
This was taken from a painting owned by
Alice Eakins McLean.



Another saw mill showing water wheel.

SAW MILLS

A saw mill was built by Jacob Zavitz at the foot of the ridge north west of Sparta and west of the Doan mill about 1820. Later owned by Samuel and Jordan Minor. This was on Lot 15, Concession 4.

In 1825 Charles Lincoln, a Lower Canadian, purchased Lot 23, Concession 4, and built a saw mill.

The Doans built a saw mill with water wheel at Sparta. This was of considerable size and on the north side of the pond and near the road going north from the village. Then the water going over the dam passed under the long wooden bridge, which spanned the ravine, before the earth filled-in roadway was made. This mill - later - was owned and operated by Mr. Alvin Jay.

A saw mill was built by Cornelius Mills for Col. Baby at Pleasant Valley.

Samuel Minard built a saw mill on Lot 22, Concession 6, and Cornelius Mills had a machine run by water on the same lot where they used to thresh.

About 1835 Mr. Chrysler had a saw mill at Jamestown.

GRIST MILLS

Jonathan Doan was the first to build and operate a grist mill in the Sparta section. Before the grist mill was built for Doan by Christian Zavitz and his sons about 1819, the settlers of south Yarmouth obtained their flour and meal from their own pioneer pumping mills or, after a voyage down the lake in a row-boat, from the mill at Long Point. Settlers of Sparta District were more fortunate than neighbors some miles away as Sheriff McKellar of Elgin County said that "people living at Brocks' Creek, 16 miles west of Port Talbot, relied on Doan's grist and flour mills. A two-oared yawl was used by many of these settlers in coming east where they could have their grists ground or buy flour and meal". On Lot 23, Concession 4, Mr. Howard Welding, an American, built a grist mill - just east of Sparta, on Mill Creek, on the site of a dilapidated saw mill that Chas. Lincoln had built in 1825. After Mr. Welding's death in 1870 the mill changed hands several times when Mr. Thos. Lintott bought and ran it.

About 1835 Mr. Chrysler had a grist mill built at Jamestown.

In the Historical Atlas of Elgin County in 1877 - the following advertisement appears -

"James Fawcett
Proprietor of Zavitz's Flouring Mills
Gristing a specialty.
Satisfaction guaranteed
Lot 16 - Union Road."