

The front entrance had solid doors, solid and most likely of pine since there was an abundance of material when the building was erected possibly as early as 1856. The entrance was raised a little above the ground level and a long porch extended the whole width of the building with one step in the middle; perhaps six feet long. There was no basement under the building. The main building was probably 36 ft x 24 ft with the choir loft adding another 10 ft to the length about 16 ft from eave to ground level. White painted lap siding covered the outside and the usual cedar shingles covered the roof. The building was heated by two cast-iron box stoves, one in each corner of the south end. On cold Sunday afternoon for Sunday School, the girls huddled around the one in the east side and the boys did the same on the west side. This required a great deal of stove pipe which ran up either side of the building and was suspended about three feet below the ceiling on a series of wire hangers.

Elbows and a tee in the centre of the building brought the two line pipes together and into the chimney near the front of the church. I suppose the long pipe helped spread the heat through the building. Inside the building had wood wainscoting and above this lath and plaster with wall paper. There must have been carpeting in the aisles and on the pulpit. Dark red was in style for many churches of that period. Kerosene lamps held in metal brackets by each window provided the lighting. The style of the lamps was a familiar one - a glass base which held about a quart of kerosene with a metal burner and cloth wicks and a glass chimney. The pews were stained and varnished and of a backed variety. I don't remember any particular carvings on the pew ends or special shaping of the seats. Early Methodist Churches were not particularly noted for their adornment. Incidentally it was Jack Simms who bought the building had moved it across to his property and first used it to house chickens. This action did disturb a number of folks for whom the building had many cherished memories. I don't recall any weddings or funerals being held but I do recall the church decorated for Harvest Home services and Christmas Concerts as well

as Mothers' Day which I mentioned earlier. There were two short pews running parallel to the side wall on each corner at the front end and a bench against the wall was around each of the stoves. The extra wood for the stove was stored under one of them. My mother was caretaker during the last years the building was in use and my job was carrying in the wood from the shed at the rear."

S. S. NO. 2, DUNWICH.

Among the oldest Methodist churches in West Elgin is the Tyrconnel Methodist church. It was built in the summer and fall of 1855. Mr. A. Conn erected the frame and Mr. R. Barr enclosed it and finished off the inside. The church was opened in February, 1856, but long before this missionaries belonging to the British Wesleyan Missionary Society traveled through here, and held services in the school-house on Mr. Backus' farm. The ministers generally stopped with Mr. Backus or Mr. Conn, the latter being an active member of the Methodist church. At this time it was a mission with London, and the first missionary was Rev. Mr. Ferguson. The next were Rev. Dr. Evans, Mr. Breden and Mr. Andrews. It was a mission until 1836, and in that year it became a part of St. Thomas circuit. The ministers since have been :

1836—Rev. Mr. Conrad Vandusen, John K. Williston.

1837—Thomas Fawcett, Thomas B. Goodrich.

1838—James Norris, James Hardie.

1839—James Norris, Mr. Gilbert.

1840-41—H. Montgomery, Solomon Waldon.

1843-44—K. Creghton.

1845—S. Synder.

1846-48—S. C. Philp, A. T. Green, R. Whiting.

1849-50—Wm. Pollard, John S. Evens, Edward White.

1851—John Bredin, Joseph Hugill, D. A.

Dewart. The latter was editor of the Guardian for many years.

1852-53—R. Whiting, J. Hugill.

1854-56—Wm. Price, S. Maudsley.

In 1854 Fingal was set off and Tyrconnel became a part of circuit. The members being : Mathew Swan, L. O. Rice, Mr. Crews, Mr. Walker. The church was after this set off as a mission with Bismarck, the ministers being : A. Drennan, B. Sherlock, Edward Cragg, Thos. Hannah. The church then became an independent circuit, and joined Dutton, the ministers being : E. Leskey, James Watson, William McCan.

The ministers then moved from Tyrconnel to Wallacetown, after which Rev. J. G. Follis preached. The parsonage was then moved to Dutton, which became the head of the circuit and the ministers since have been, Rev. Messrs. Earl, Hamilton, E. Middleton, C. F. Scott, J. E. Moore.

The cemetery was laid out in 1870, and among the oldest who rest there are Mr. and Mrs. Conn, Mr. Conn living to the good old age of 99 years. Mr. Conn's father and mother are buried in the English church cemetery.

Source: book "Dunwich" at
Dutton-Dunwich Library: text written
by Walter Pearce

MINISTERS OF THE METHODIST CHURCH, WALLACETOWN

Rev. James Watton 1875-1878
Rev. Wm. McCann
Rev. J. G. Fallis
Rev. Eli Middleton 1888
Rev. Charles T. Scott 1890-1894
Rev. J. E. Moore 1896
Rev. R. C. Beer 1897-1900
Rev. Ezra G. Powell 1900-1903
Rev. George Jewitt 1904
Rev. James Husser 1908
Rev. John Kennedy
Rev. Dr. A. M. Kibban
Rev. Harvey Kennedy 1916
Rev. J.W. Snell 1919
Rev. Rutherford
Rev. J. R. Douglas 1925

List compiled from M. Welch's book "Century of Service"

ST. THOMAS, ONTARIO, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1955



BILL, MORLEY, JACK AND DON PAGE

Record Old-Time Religious Music Sung 100 Years Ago

The name of Page has been closely identified with religious music in this part of Southern Ontario for upwards of a hundred years. It was natural, therefore, that this year a quartette, composed of direct descendants of Jonas Page, early settlers in the domain presided over by Colonel Thomas Talbot, should be formed with the express purpose of recording this old-time religious music as it was sung in pioneer days.

This quartet, known as the "Page Male Quartet," is composed of Morley W. Page, of Tyrconnell, bass; his son, William M. Page, of Lambeth, baritone, and his two nephews, Jack L. Page, lead, and Don H. Page, tenor, both of London.

They have already made eight recordings, the numbers being "The Old Time Religion," "In My Father's House," "Just Outside the Door," "After," "Were You There When They Crucified My Lord," "Mary and Martha," "Softly and Tenderly," and "Look Away to Heaven." The harmony in the numbers, "In My Father's House" and "The Old Time Religion" is not written or arranged and is sung by the quartet as they heard their fathers sing it. All numbers are sung unaccompanied as in the olden days, and in order to obtain true harmony and the perfect blending of voices.

The recordings were made at

the CFPL studios in London for Sparton of Canada, Limited, under the supervision of Harold E. Pounds, Sparton merchandising manager. They are already being merchandized by Sparton in Canada and Mr. Pounds is at present interesting United States houses in them.

Historical Background

Historical and musical background provide full justification for the formation of the Page Male Quartet and the recordings made. In 1845 Jonas Page, with his wife and five-year-old son, arrived from Oxfordshire, England, at Five Stakes, Elgin County, Upper Canada, now known as Talbotville. Later he was directed to Colonel Talbot, the founder of the Talbot Settlement, and secured from him a parcel of land (at \$2 an acre) on the shore of Lake Erie near Tyrconnell. He cleared the land and erected a log house with the assistance of his nearest neighbor, Job Curtis, who lived a mile away. Returning to Five Stakes, he moved his family by oxen and sled to their new home—20 miles through the bush. This property remains today in the Page name.

One of the first community projects in which Jonas Page assisted was the erection of the first Methodist Church in Tyrconnell, in 1855. On its completion he led the singing with the help of a tuning fork. Organs or pianos, of course, were out of the question in that rough country; all singing was unaccom-

panied. It was several years later that the first organ was brought into the church and it caused considerable controversy among many in the congregation since any instrument other than the tuning fork was considered completely out of keeping with the sanctity of the church. However, the organ stayed.

At this time, living next door to the church was a young 12-year-old girl, Dora Green, who took a great interest in the instrument and used to slip away from helping her mother to play it. Her father, Benjamin Green, an exceedingly musical man, played several musical instruments by ear. He was very exacting and demanded complete quiet in the house when he played. The family, all musical, must always sing to the best of their ability, and any imperfection was not allowed. Dora Green eventually became church organist and choir leader. She continued in that capacity for almost 50 years.

Jonas Page, Jr., the youngest of Mr. Page's 10 children, married Dora Green. To them two sons were born, Morley and Herman. In raising her children, Dora Page taught them the old sacred songs she loved. Sacred music played a major part in their lives. Mrs. Page is still living and at the age of 87 can still play by ear these old numbers in any key.

Sang Together 30 Years

Fortunately, Herman developed a tenor voice and Morley a bari-

tone. Male duets as well as solos resulted. The boys sang together for nearly 30 years wherever they were needed in the community and surrounding district, until Herman died in 1947. The selection "After" was one of Herman's favorites and the quartet has dedicated that selection to him on the record.

To Herman were born two sons—Don and Jack—while Morley had one son—Bill. The boys grew up to the sound of their fathers' voices and on many occasions joined in learning the harmony of the old songs. They were encouraged to sing from a very early age and sang solos in Sunday School, Church and School Christmas concerts, accompanied by their fathers on guitar and banjo. The boys were given a musical education. It wasn't until the Spring of 1955, however, that Morley and the three boys—Bill, Don and Jack—got together with the definite idea of forming a quartet. From the first their voices blended naturally, not at all surprising considering their background.

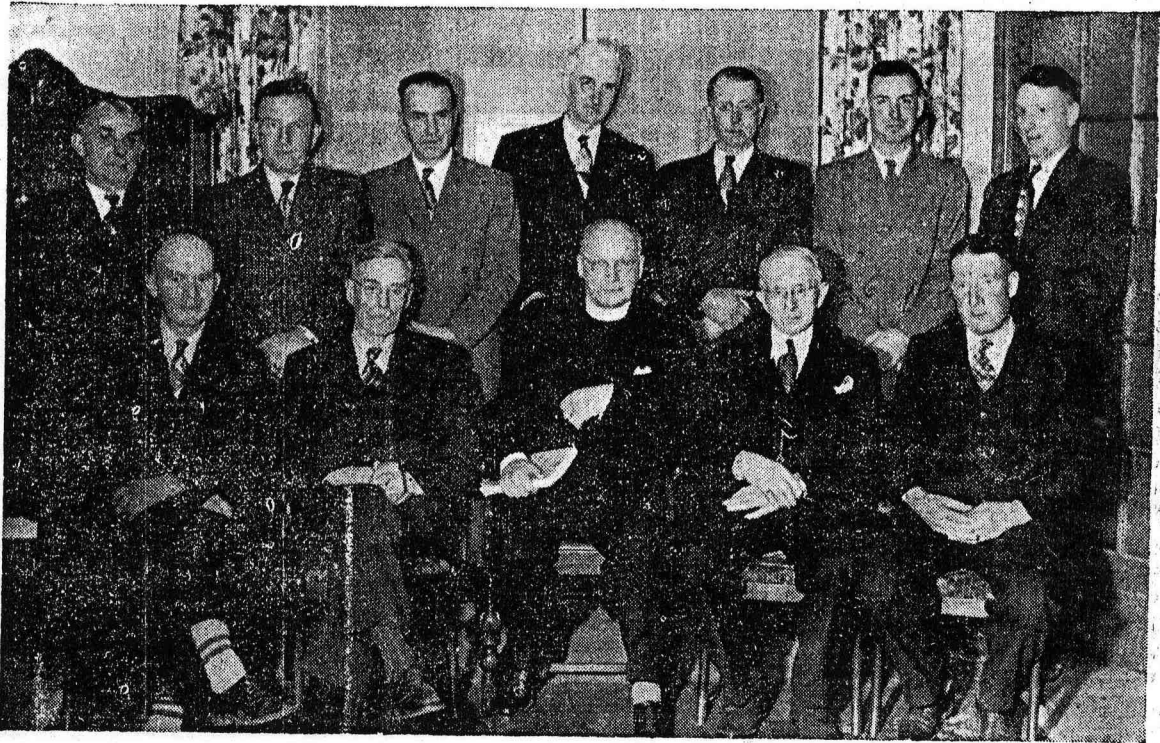
While Morley continues to live on the farm at Tyrconnell, his son, William M., lives in Lambeth, and is on the staff of the McConnell Eastman Advertising Agency in London; Don H. is with Midland Securities, London, and resides at 234 Langley street, while Jack is taking a course at the Westervelt Business School. Don and Jack are sons of Mrs. Gertrude Page of Tyrconnell.

N ADVANCE

May 22nd, 1952.

\$2.50 Per Year in Canada

Elders and Managers of Wallacetown Church



Shown here are the elders and managers of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church which is presently observing its 100th anniversary. Seated, left to right—Grant Cameron, Neil Robb, the minister, Rev. Robert Bruce, Daniel Clarke and John C. McKillop. Standing—Neil McKellar, Douglas Walters, John S. Cameron, Herb Wight, John McKillop, Leonard Lunn and Finlay McPherson.

Memorials Are Unveiled At Wallacetown Church

Divine service of re-dedication and memorial was held in St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Wallacetown, on Sunday, May 18th, in connection with the centennial observance. The minister, Rev. Robt. Bruce, officiated and Gary Martelle was at the organ.

The service opened with prayer and Psalm 106, followed by the dedication prayer for the remodelled church.

Two beautiful stained glass windows have been installed in the new chancel by the descendants of three of the pioneer families. "The Light of the World," in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Lunn and Bertha and Mr. and Mrs. Alex. D. McKillop was unveiled by their sons, Harold Lunn, and John C. McKillop, respectively. "The Good Shepherd," in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Peter G. Cameron, was unveiled by their two sons, Grant and John S. Cameron.

Ronald Ford and Alistair McKellar unveiled the beautiful new pulpit given in loving memory of their grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Ford and Mr. and Mrs. Jas. McKellar, respectively.

John McKillop placed on the pulpit a handsomely bound Holy Bible and markers, a gift from the family, in memory of his father, Daniel D. McKillop.

D. A. Clarke and family, in remembrance of Mrs. Eliza Clarke, presented magnificent new lighting for the nave of the church.

In fond remembrance of his wife, Mrs. Jennie Dennis, Thomas Dennis placed on the altar a pair of collection plates.

Gifts to the glory of God for the continued worship in St. Andrew's Church were presented as follows: In the name of the Jas. D. Cameron family, a pair of collection plates.

Bands Coming for Caledonian Games

Plans for the Caledonian Games to be held on August 4th were discussed further at a meeting of the committee here on Monday evening. Among those present was Deputy Reeve Henry Parker of Yarmouth, who is chairman of sports and special events for the Centennial, and who is giving the Games strong support. Also present were L. B. Birdsall, St. Thomas, on public relations, and Roy Jewell, with radio station CFPL London, who have promised to give the Games wide publicity.

Memberships in the Caledonian Society are now on sale. The five dollar fee includes admission of holder and lady or escort to the Games.

The president, Reeve A. E. Roberts had word from W. H. McPherson, St. Thomas, in charge of the piping and dancing, that four large bands are assured—the Toronto Scottish and 48th Highlanders; the Argyle Pipe Band and Veterans' Band, and the Ford Pipe Band from Windsor and Detroit. Trophies in the three band classes are being donated by Labatt's of London; Molsons of Montreal, and Andrew Ward, Ridgetown, legislative representative for East Kent.

Arrangements were also made to have the West Elgin Women's Institutes serve meals to the thousands who are expected that day.

The rink and the Memorial Hall will likely be the places where meals are served.

RUTH LODGE MEETS

The regular meeting of the L.O.B.A., Ruth Lodge, No. 1202, was held at the Orange Hall on Wednesday, May 14th.

The meeting opened with W.M. Mrs. Frank Walker presiding, assisted by Chaplain, Mrs. Wm. Cook. Mrs. M. Nichols and Miss Ruth McKillop volunteered to carry the flags at the church walk in June.

The mystery prize was won by Mrs. Nellie Hull.

The next meeting will be held May 29th.

DR. A. S. BACKUS ALSO FROM WALLACETOWN

Still another professional man who came from the Wallacetown district and who was omitted from a list in this paper recently was Dr. Andrew S. Backus, brother of the late Dr. W. J. Backus of Stockton, California.

Dr. A. S. Backus attended Dutton High School and graduated from Trinity Medical College, Toronto. His practice included the border between Manitoba and North Dakota for many years, he holding licences in both countries. He later moved to St. Paul, Minn., where he practiced until his death some years ago.

Gifts to the glory of God for the continued worship in St. Andrew's Church were presented as follows: In the name of the Jas. R. Cameron family, lectern, vestry table and chairs, by Marshall Cameron; pulpit hymnal, by Neil Malcolm Robb; chancel lights and Latin cross, gift of Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Walters and family and Mr. and Mrs. E. Martelle and family, by Douglas and Eugene Walters; wine velvet communion drape, a gift from the women's organizations of the sister church in West Lorne.

Leonard Lunn, a veteran of World War II, presented a beautiful flag and standard as his gift.

A candle holder, one of the originals from the church, was re-finished and replaced in the church by Mr. and Mrs. Wilson McCullough.

The memorials and gifts were graciously received by Mr. Bruce, who offered a prayer of dedication and thanksgiving.

Six new members were received into full communion of the church.

During the offering, "Gently Lord, O Gently Lead Us", by W. T. Porter was quietly played on the organ.

Holy Communion was served.

Floral tributes, gifts from the families of Mr. and Mrs. John Patton and Mr. and Mrs. Peter McMurchy in remembrance, and from Mr. and Mrs. A. McKellar and Mr. and Mrs. Herb Wight adorned the church, made beautiful to the glory of God by the faithful followers of those staunch pioneers who established a Christian way of life one hundred years ago in order that we might survive.

Marshall Cameron was chairman of the committee which did such a fine job of altering and improving the church for the centennial observance. Besides the many new appointments, the church has been attractively decorated throughout and its appearance testifies to the devotion of the members of St. Andrew's today.

Wallacetown United W.M.S. Has Eventful 40 Years

Following is the balance of a 40-year history of Wallacetown United Women's Mission-Society compiled and written by Mrs. George H. Lidster.

Rev. Hill Hamilton was now our pastor. In December, 1950, Mrs. Davy and Mrs. Revell were thanked for opening their homes for Mission Band meetings for many years. In January, 1951, Rev. Grant Mills came from Dutton to be our pastor. During the war years we sent food parcels to Europe, as well as clothing.

In 1952 we were asked to raise \$160 for the new United Church training school at Toronto. Mrs. W. J. Glanfield led a committee and the money was raised.

C.G.I.T. Group Formed

In 1953, a C.G.I.T. group was organized with Mrs. Kenneth Welch as leader. In 1954 we paid our allocation to the Mrs. Child's Scholarship Fund.

In September, 1955, at a meeting ing at Mrs. Littlejohn's, Miss Rena Beacom was presented with a piece of luggage and a sum of money. In June of that year the ladies were invited to hold a meeting at Mrs. Freeman Parker's at Springfield. Seventeen ladies attended. Preceding the meeting was a pot luck dinner. The same summer, Mrs. A. Crawford entertained the Baby Band and mothers at her home.

Bethel House was opened and we donated clothing and quilts. By 1959 our allocation had risen from \$150 to \$500. We have always sent delegates to the Presbyterian meetings and in 1959 some of our ladies attended the 25th anniversary banquet of Leaders' school. Over the years we have had 140 members and 45 have passed on.

We have made 22 life members, as follows: Mrs. D. W. Graham, 1925; Mrs. Alf. Shipley, 1927; Mrs. Alvro Keillor (in memory of her husband), 1938; Mrs. Cyrus Jones (in memory of her husband), Mrs. Harvey Ripley, Mrs. Fred Leitchfield, Mrs. Wm. Braddon, Miss Bain, 1939; Mrs. George H. Lidster (20th anniversary as recording secretary), 1940; Mrs. (Rev.) Turner, 1942; Mrs. D. M. Littlejohn (by Miss Bain), 1941; Mrs. Cessford Lunn, 1943; Mrs. Alfred Koehler, 1946; Mrs. James Lackey, 1947; Mrs. Ida Davy, 1951; Mrs. James Campbell, 1952; Mrs. T. R. Small, 1952; Mrs. Frank Smith, 1953; Mrs. James Revell, 1953; Mrs. Bert Braddon, 1953; Mrs. N. Sutton, 1957; Mrs. Morley Page, 1957; Mrs. Muriel Glanfield, 1958.

Life Members

During the years we have had 10 presidents, namely: Mrs. (Rev.) Godfrey, 1920-1924; (when she left we presented her with mahogany candlesticks and half dozen fruit naps); Mrs. D. W. Graham, 1924-1928; Mrs. I. H. Macdonald, 1928-37½; Mrs. A. V. Walden, 1937½-39; Mrs. Morley Page, 1939-41; Mrs. I. W. Ripley, 1941 and part of 1942; Mrs. Ida Davy, 1942-1944; Mrs. H. Hamilton, 1944-50; Mrs. Morley Page (second time) 1950-55; Mrs. Wm. McKillop 1955-58; Mrs. Willard Watts, 1958-.

In all the years, there have been only three recording secretaries—Mrs. George H. Lidster, 1920-1945; (at 20 years she received a life membership and at 25th silver anniversary a silver engraved locket and chain); Mrs. Annie Trothen, 1945-55; Mrs. Victor Betts, 1955-.

There have been 14 treasurers with expense treasurers—Mrs. Kortz, 2 years; Mrs. D. McCallum, 1 year; Mrs. George Cummings, 3 years; Mrs. Wm. Braddon, 3 years; Mrs. D. W. Graham, 14 years; Mrs. Iva Crawford, 2 years; Mrs. Lottie Keillor, 12 years; Mrs. Don Lackey, 2 years now. Expense treasurers since 1935 have been Mrs. Alex. McArthur, 6 years; Mrs. T. R. Small, 3 years; Miss Allie Bain, 6 years; Mrs. Alex. White, 8 years.

Mission Band Leaders

In 1925 our first Mission Band leaders were Mrs. Gray and Mrs. Wm. Braddon. Others following were Mrs. McArthur, Mrs. Henry Farr, Mrs. Koehler; assistants, Miss Grace Whittingham, Mrs. McFarland, Miss Dorothy Stidwill, Miss Annie Ripley, Mrs. Morley Page, Miss Marion Davy, Mrs. Alex. White, Mrs. Frank Brown, Mrs. Clea Evans, Mrs. Cecil Campbell, Mrs. Chas. McDonald, Mrs. Harold Sloan, Mrs. Willard Watts, Mrs. Walter Robson, Mrs. Laurence Holland, Mrs. D. DeGraw, Mrs. D. Lackey, Mrs. Stuart Graham.

A Baby Band was organized in 1941 and leaders have been Mrs. (Rev.) Turner, Mrs. Earl Shipley, Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Clea Evans, Mrs.

Stewart Lindenman, Mrs. Carl Woolley, Mrs. D. M. Littlejohn, Mrs. Willard Watts, Mrs. Crawford (present leader).

Many have faithfully fulfilled the offices of the other secretaries. Mrs. Ed. Shipley was Missionary Monthly secretary for 28 years. Mrs. Cessford Lunn, Mrs. Morley Page, Mrs. W. J. Glanfield and Mrs. Wm. McKillop were Christian Stewardship secretary for many years. Mrs. N. Sutton and Mrs. Bertha Pratt have served as supply secretary.

Meet In New Parlour

In March of this year after extensive alterations to our church, we were able to meet in our new ladies' parlor, a dream fulfilled at last. Over the years we have exchanged visits with auxiliaries of other churches and enjoy the fellowship. We have sent many bales, made many quilts, stuffed toys and made layetts, held two Sunday church services each year. We have had social evenings, self-denial collections and plant sales, but most of our funds are free-will offerings. Many have contributed their musical talent to make our meetings more enjoyable. In the past minutes we find these names: Mrs. Lucas, Effie McFarlane, Mrs. Gray, Anna May White, Janice Parker, Mrs. N. Welch, Billy Page, Sharon Campbell, Mrs. Leeming, Mrs. L. Shipley, Mabel Sloan, Miss T. Braddon, Marion Lunn, Mrs. Browning, Iris Page, Mrs. D. W. Graham, Mrs. W. McKillop, Mrs. Farr, Mrs. Don Lackey, Mrs. Stidwill, Rosie May Lidster.

And now we seem to be coming to a parting of the ways and a federation of W.A. and W.M.S. is about to take place. We know that God will bless the new organization as he has blessed the old.