

HISTORY OF CHURCHES

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church - Strange

ST. ANDREWS
KING
STRANGE



Rev. Dr. James Carmichael in front of St. Andrews Church - 6th con.
taken previously to 1910.



Dr. Carmichael and his
neice, Elizabeth Tawse.
Horse-drawn cutters and
buggies were his only
mode of transportation.

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Strange.

The pioneers of the wilderness of this country were chiefly Highlanders from the west coast of Scotland, Argyllshire and the Islands. They brought with them sacred memories of the old parish church, and so was the beginning of the planting of the christian church on the 6th concession, when a small building of hewn pine logs was erected; a building consecrated to the worship of the God of their fathers. It was named St. Andrew's, King and had as its first minister, Mr. Gordon, who was inducted in 1834. His charge was King and Newmarket.

Other ministers and missionaries had found their way into King before this, visiting the homes of pioneers and preaching the gospel wherever a few families could be gathered together.

After Mr. Gordon, the Rev. John Tawse was inducted in 1837. These were the stirring days of the Upper Canada Rebellion. The work was heavy, preaching three times on Sabbath and travelling on horseback, over roads that, at some seasons of the year seemed to be bottomless. Mr. Tawse died in April, 1877 after a ministry of forty years and was buried at Eversley, 3rd Line, King.

Great changes had taken place in King. The old log churches had been replaced by two substantial stone buildings, St. Andrew's and 3rd Line, Eversley. A deed was issued and dated December 26th, 1853 for the property prior to the new stone building at St. Andrew's. One half acre of land was bought of Andrew and Mary Morton for the sum of seven pounds of lawful money. Sealed in the presence of

Andrew Burns and Donald McCallum.

A great chapter of the history of St. Andrew's Church, Strange, is reserved for the late Rev. James Carmichael, D.D., who was ordained 1860 at Strange Church and retired there at the end of 50 years.

St. Andrew's charge contained two churches, one a substantial stone building, opened about three months after the induction of Dr. Carmichael; and the other a frame building erected the year before; which in the course of a few years gave place to a brick church. The churches were five miles apart. The congregation around each church was half Gaelic speaking and half English. So there had to be two services in each church, one in English and one in Gaelic. As the older members

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Strange. (Continued)

of the congregation passed away the Gaelic died with them, and the last twenty years of his ministry there was no Gaelic service in King. Dr. Carmichael in his course of ministry became the chaplain of the Gaelic Society of Canada. It is interesting to note that the Gaelic Bible Dr. Carmichael presched from is still at St. Andrew's, Strange at time of writing, 1954.

The Toronto Presbytery resolved that the completion of a half-century of service in one charge by such a man should have a fitting celebration. A committee was appointed and it was arranged that special services be held at St. Andrew's, Sunday, October Second and that Thursday, October Sixth, the Presbytery would meet at St. Andrew's at ten o'clock in the morning, and after necessary business they should adjourn, and spend the rest of the day in social fellowship with Dr. Carmichael and his congregation.

It was a splendid tribute to Dr. Carmichael that more than one hundred and thirty people went up from Toronto to Strange to celebrate. The wind and rain swept unceasingly over the hills of King on a four-mile drive from the railway station. But one speedily forgot the weather in the hearty Highland welcome that was given and provided for the crowd. Tents were used to accomodate the people.

Dr. Carmichael related at this Jubilee that -- "Two generations have gone, and I am getting down among the 3rd and 4th and sometimes I see the 5th generation of my first communicants in church." So far, as he knew, only one was left of all who sat down at the table of the Lord at the first communion.

He lived 8 years Emeritus, and died at the Eversley Manse and was buried at St. Andrew's, Strange.

The church continued in its progress and was ministered to by faithful ministers till the year of church union, 1925, when the church membership was split up. The numbers were fewer, but stronger were the ties. It is interesting to note that St. Andrew's had its first church wedding in 1928 when the bride was presented with a Bible in honor of the occasion.

In 1937 the 100th Anniversary of St. Andrew's was held.



St. Andrew's Presbyterian Choir - taken 1905-06.

Back row - H. Ross, R. Farren, R. Rutherford, T. Lawson, Dr. Carmichael

2nd row - Beatrice Rutherford, organist, Mae MacCallum, Octavia McCallum,

1st row - Mr. Firth-choir leader, & school teacher at Strange School.

Margaret McCallum, Kate Ross, Jennie Gillies, Elizabeth Lawson,

Allie McClure, Irene Rutherford.



Two familiar scenes taken in Strange Church.

Mr s. R. Farren at the organ, a consecrated church, S.S. and W.M.S. worker for many years.

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Strange. (Continued)

At these Sunday services the old, long-handled, square collection boxes were used.

In 1941 the charge was vacated and from that time the charge did not have the guidance of an ordained minister till 1952. During the Second World War years, when ministers and students were in the armed services, a layman, a native of West King served the three point charge in a faithful manner. The numbers were few, but their efforts were strongly united in the service of the church. Student ministers served the charge then till the present minister, who was here two years before his ordination and induction at St. Andrew's, Strange in 1952. The present minister is Rev. David Wotherspoon.

Also in 1952, St. Andrew's Women's Missionary Society celebrated its 60th Anniversary.

It is believed that the wedding bands of Donald McCallum, a descendant of this Historical Church, were the first to be read in this church also, in 1952.

A change of hour of worship for the first time, beginning on Sunday, June 6th, 1954 and continuing for summer months, will be held at 9.45 A.M. instead of 2.30 P.M. The adult and junior congregations will meet in the church auditorium.

In August, 1954, St. Andrew's, Strange underwent a renovation program. An eight-foot panelling was built on the west wall of the auditorium, behind the pulpit and choir loft. The vestry will be improved and equipped as a Sunday school room. The vestibule is to be panelled and the floor tiled. The floor of the furnace room will be cemented and a new outside chimney built. Donald McCallum is planning and building chairman.

Other officials and the men of the congregation did the work; the minister, Rev. David Wotherspoon, helping. He constructed a baptismal font which is finished to correspond with the panelled woodwork. The whole program was to be completed for anniversary services in the fall.

ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - STRANGE - KING CITY

The final chapter of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Strange, came to a close on Sunday, December 7, 1958, when the door was locked and the historical old church was closed by the Toronto Presbytery. The remaining congregation were divided, some going west to join with St. Paul's of Ninth Line to form a new church at Nobleton; others going east to join with St. Andrew's, Eversley, to form a new church at King City.

The Official Opening and Dedication of Portable Church St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, King City



*The Reverend D. P. Rowland, M.C., D.D., Interim Moderator of the Congregation
Minister of York Memorial Presbyterian Church*

*The Reverend David McCullough, Director of Church Extension of the
Presbyteries of East and West Toronto*

Mr. Bruce A. Will, B.A., Student in Charge

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1958
at
3 o'clock.

ST. ANDREWS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - STRANGE
Cont'd.

Anglican Priest buys old church as summer home.

For the first time in his 19 years of ministry Rev. Gordon Agar of the King Charge has been instructed by West Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church to conduct a "deconsecration" service. The rare ceremony is expected to be held shortly at the picturesque century-old St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Strange, which has been purchased as a summer home by an Anglican Archdeacon, Rev. W. J. Gilling. Legal details of the property change are expected to be completed August 2, 1960.

The fieldstone building has been standing vacant for nearly two years, since the congregation joined forces with their sister group from Eversley and established the new temporary church in King City.

The move left the two rural churches for sale. At Strange on the sixth Concession, the cemetery is now separated from the half-acre Church site, which is being sold to the Venerable Gilling on condition that the building be used as a single family dwelling until Presbytery decides to relinquish the restriction. King Township Planning Board has stipulated the single family occupancy clause can be effective up to a 20-year limit.

The Board of Managers of the re-located St. Andrew's congregation intends to call a meeting to establish a committee to undertake financing and maintenance of the churchyard cemetery, where early families of the area were buried.

REMEMBER PASTOR

"I remember him well", Miss Elizabeth Tinline, 92 year old resident of King, and possibly the oldest living member of the church, told the Telegram. Speaking of John Tawse, who went from place to place, preaching and visiting his people, on horseback; Miss Tinline said, "He was a big rugged Scotsman and he had a heart as big as a house. I can still recall sitting on my Father's knee as a little girl, looking up into his face as he preached. That was in the old log church. The pulpit was at one side of the church and stood at least six feet off the floor.

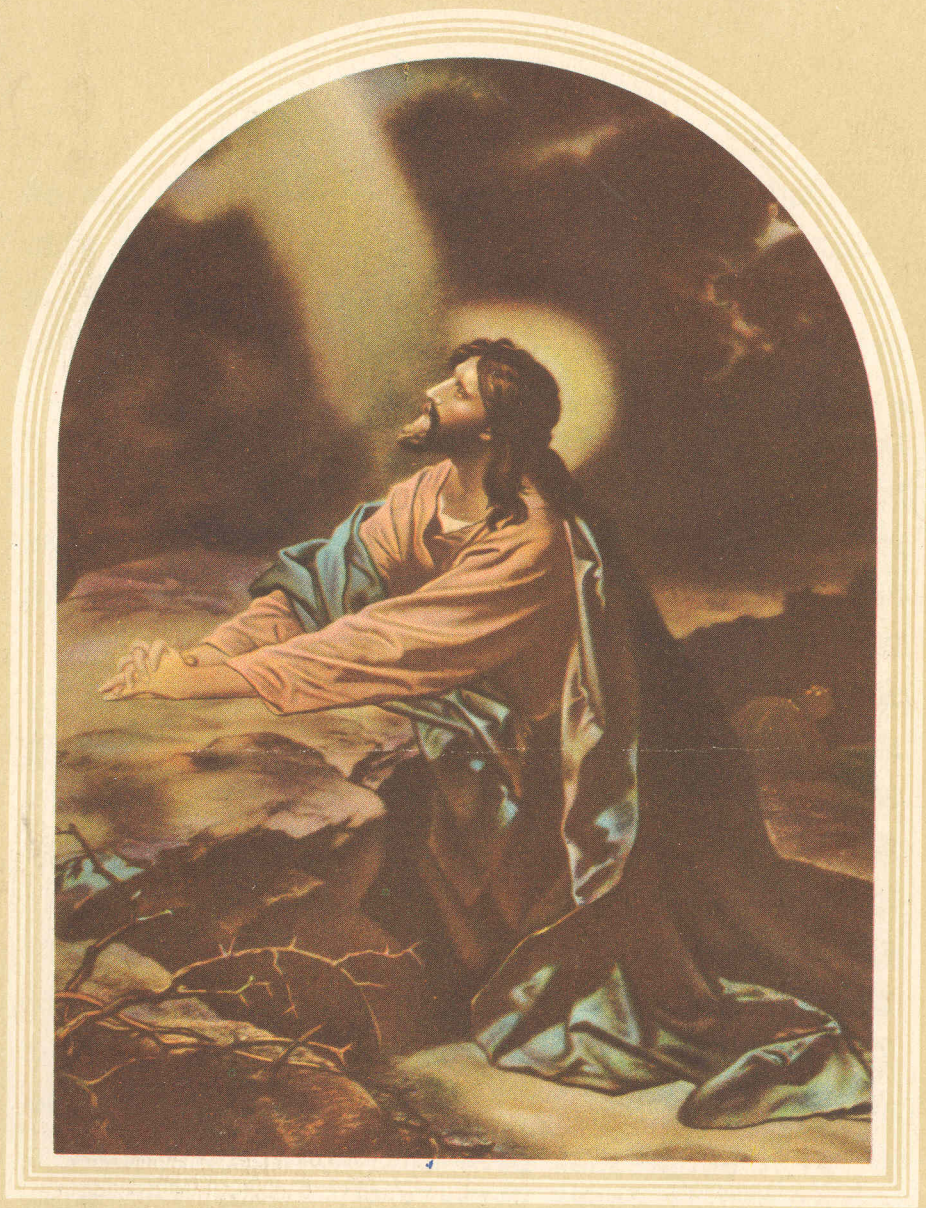
"There were no pews in those days, just long rows of benches. Below the minister stood the precenter, who started all the hymns. Of course there was no organ or choir, but the happy group of people joined lustily in singing those old Presbyterian hymns."



Miss Elizabeth Tinline

member of Presbyterian church and
School teacher at Strange for
sixteen years - 1885 - 1901, and
lived to be over 90 years of age.





1876 PRIMITIVE METHODIST PREACHER'S PLAN - LASKAY CIRCUIT 1877

"Arise O God, plead Thine own Cause"

Stewards	Places	Hour	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	Preachers	Hymn
Love the brotherhood	Why is the house of God forsaken	Bein Time					whose putteth his trust in the Lord shall be safe	Who'll be the next to Follow Jesus
W. Warren	Laskay	6½					1 H. Harris	
W. Dalton	Nableton	2½					2 G. J. Reeve	
R. Archibald	Eighth Line	10					3 W. Nixon	
	"	6½					4 T. Reynolds	
J. Reynolds	Salem	2					5 W. Lind	
W. Kirby	Hope	2					6 D. Archibald	
T. Cook	Carrville	6½					7 W. Denton	
W. Penny	Patterson	2½					8 H. Diceman	
M. Mortson	Thompson's	10					9 J. Johnson	Circuit Steward C. Nixon
	"	6½					10 J. Ireland	
J. Scott	Ebenezer	10					11 W. Reynolds	
	"	6½					12 J. J. Grimshaw	Circuit Committee
G. Walker	Aurora	10½					13 J. Coombs	Bras J. Baldwin
J. Usherwood	"	6½					14 E. Gardiner	W. Nixon
							15 T. Jordinson	T. Cook
							16 G. Hopkins	A. Diceman
							17 G. Baker	J. Craddock
							18 *	W. Warren
							Exhorter	G. Coombs
							19 W. B. Booth	W. Knight

Notices

The Quarterly Business meeting will be held at
Ebenezer on Sat. Jan 27 at 1.30 P.M. the religious
Service on Sun. 28 at the same Place at 10.30 A.M.

Sabbath School tea Meeting Salem Dec 20th 1 P.M.

Laskay " 23rd 4 P.M.

Missionary Meetings Jan 8th Salem 9th Laskay 10th Eighth Line Deputation Revs.

J. W. Robinson & T. Simms Jan. 15th Thompson's 16th Patterson 17th Carrville 18th Hope Revs.

W. Reid & J. F. Oakley Jan 22 Nobleton 23rd Ebenezer 24th Aurora Revs C. Lazenby & J. Dennis
(COPY)

HISTORY OF CHURCHES

Primitive Methodist -later United.

The Primitive Methodists were the first to hold religious services in Laskay, the meetings being held in the Cooper shop in 1852 and until 1856, when the first church was erected.

Mr. Baldwin donated to the Primitive Methodists, land situated on the 6th con. upon which to build their church and parsonage.

The church was a wooden structure and the entrance was at the east side near the end where the pulpit stood. The seats were built so that each row was a step above the other, rising towards the back.

The church was well attended and old timers say one had to go early in order to get a seat.

Sunday School picnics were held in the woods on the south-east corner of the townline and con. 6. Everyone went and had a wonderful time. The trees were so close together children put up swings between them.

The parsonage stood where Smith's cottage is at present, south of the church.

For twenty-five years the singing was led by a negro, Richard Barnard. He had been a slave in the States and escaped to Canada. Mr. Barnard could not read a word but the preacher would read the verses, two lines at a time, so he could memorize them. His voice was very melodious and his singing was admired by all who listened to him.

The old church was torn down and the cornerstone of the new brick church was laid in 1904.

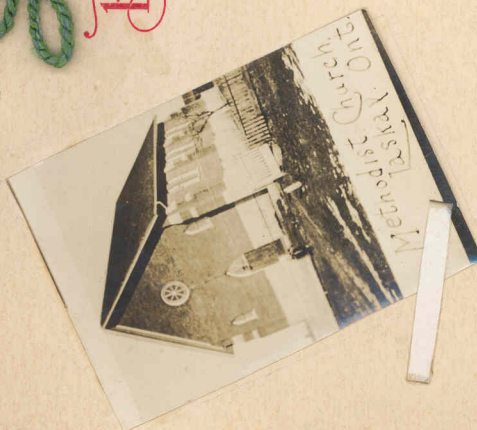


METH. CHURCH
LASKAY



Best Christmas
Wishes

Sweet Christmas! welcome be thy day
Most joyous of the year
When Gladness holds her merry sway
And fills the earth with cheer



Laskay United Church

In April, 1949, the Laskay congregation began the task of redecoration and renovation in their church. This involved the painting of the building both inside and outside. On top of all this, the system of the church lighting was changed.

Much voluntary labour on the part of certain men of the congregation went into the venture. It was such effort that made possible the speedier dispatch of the work as a whole.

On May 29th -- the 45th anniversary of the laying of the corner-stone of the present building, the services of reopening and rededication were held, and drew capacity crowds.

One cannot think of this work of beautification without making mention of the kindly interest and financial aid of the Women's Missionary Society of the Church. It was this group who paid the expense of redecoration, which cost in the neighbourhood of \$800. The men of the congregation undertook the expense of the lighting.

The Young People's Society purchased the picture of the "Head of Christ" by Sallman. Here in this lovely little country church, the efforts of man have sought to make God's House more worthy.

Laskay Congregation 102 Years Old, Mark 50th Anniversary of Building.

The building of a new church at Laskay in 1904 was an important period in the history of the Primitive Methodist congregation at Laskay. It was important also for the Wesleyan Methodist congregation at Strange, on the sixth concession of King. A new building was a dire necessity to both congregations. The old wooden structure of the Primitive Methodist had served well and the white frame building of the Wesley congregation in the same circuit also was in poor condition and its numbers were diminishing.

When the time arrived to construct a new brick building that would unite both congregations, the question of a site was the subject of a heated controversy. Would the new edifice be on the same site as Laskay's Primitive Methodist church, which would be dismantled to make way for the new building? Or would a new site be chosen directly on the sixth line highway in Laskay.

Laskayites, now forming a thriving community, were proud that Joseph Baldwin, an early pioneer who came to this district in 1832 from Yorkshire, England, had given a portion of his land for "a Primitive Methodist church and a parsonage".



Picture of cemetery at back of first church built in 1856, showing Baldwin tombstone.



The parsonage, prior to being torn down, stood on 4th lot south of of the church.

Laskay Congregation 102 Years Old (Continued)

3

Many were proud that the first church built in 1856, had its roots from the nucleus of the Primitive congregation that held worship in a cooper shop back in the "flats" at Baldwin's from 1852-6.

Almost everyone recalled how the first church, (Some 20 rods east of the sixth concession road) was filled Sunday after Sunday with whole families. They all remembered how the wide plank seats were built in tiers, rising to the back of the church, so the "minister could see all his congregation at the same time, and keep a watchful eye on the young folks and late comers". They remembered the pulpit near the entrance at the ~~northwest~~ ^{southeast} corner of the building and the row of choir members to his left. They recalled the embarrassment of the tardy person who had to walk before the pulpit before he could climb to a row of seats.

They were loathe to give up the old site on "back street", rising behind the main roadway. And so, apart from some hard feelings, Laskay's Methodist church retained the original site. On May 24, 1904, the laying of the corner stone was held. Five hundred people witnessed the ceremony. The minister was Rev. Newton Hill and the guest speakers were Hon. J. W. St. John, Hon. E. J. Davis, Rev. G. W. Robinson and Rev. Dr. James Carmichael, the minister of Strange Presbyterian Church. The trowel was used by Mr. St. John and in the corner stone were placed two half gallon jars containing daily Toronto newspapers, and the Methodist church periodicals.

A huge tent was pitched across the road on Bob Wiles' lawn for the big supper. The women of Laskay Presbyterian congregation helped with the celebration.

It was a wet late season that year and construction of the building was delayed. The building committee headed by James T. Scott was enrolled by William Boys, Wesley Hamilton, Edward Marshall, George Teasdale and others. Half of the cost had already been subscribed, and by completion Rev. Hill looked for the remaining \$2,000 or more to pay off the debt.

Laskay Congregation 102 Years Old (Continued)

On Sunday, April 3, 1905, the following year, the opening of the new church was held by large congregations on Easter Sunday. Three times that day services were held with the overflows taken in the basements by other ministers. Rev. Brown, president of the Presbytery Conference, Rev. Dr. Carmichael, and Rev. Young were the preachers. Mrs. Wesley Hamilton played the new reed organ which is still in use.

Mrs. L. J. Glass has the honor of being in the congregation for 56 years. Before that time she was a small girl in the old Sunday school. Mrs. William Boys, 86, is the oldest member in terms of age, having come into Laskay from the Wesleyan church.

For many years, a community Sunday school served both Methodists and Presbyterians in Laskay. Both in the original church and later in the present church, Sunday school teachers were a mixture of both congregations. In fact, the sixth of King boasted four churches, two Presbyterian and two Methodist.

In 1925 the Laskay church became the United Church of Canada and for the past eight years, Rev. M. R. Jenkinson has been the presiding minister of the present circuit of King, Laskay and Teston.

On Sunday, May 23rd, 1954, the Laskay church will celebrate its golden jubilee anniversary at 11 A.M. and 7 P.M. The beautifully preserved building, with its solid oak seats and other special appointments has been carefully and proudly preserved.

More than 500 attended the "laying of the stone" and more than 500 people joined in the services of worship and thanksgiving on Sunday. Rev. Martin Jenkinson, incumbent, welcomed the members of the church and their guests. The inspiring influence of the church and the blessing it brings to the confused mind was the theme of the guest preacher, Dr. Archer Wallace, who is a well-known author.

The church was decorated with many bouquets. Those placing memorial flowers included: Mrs. Leonard Glass in memory of her parents, Mr. & Mrs. James T. Scott; Mary Marwood and family in memory of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Duncan McMurchy.

Laskay Congregation 102 Years Old (Continued)

A reception was held following the morning service when the registry was presented by Mrs. Marwood and Mrs. William Bryson. It was held in the church hall.

The anniversary cake in gold and white with its spired chapel centred the decorated table. Mrs. Glass, a member of the Laskay congregation for the past 56 years cut the cake.

Hostesses for the reception was the W.M.S. Miss Winnifred Boys is the president. Pouring tea were Mrs. W. Baldwin, Aurora, Mrs. Percy Forester, Mrs. Sarah Harris, Mildmay, and Mrs. James Hunter.

Also at the guest table were Rev. and Mrs. Jenkinson, Dr. Wallace, Mrs. W. Williams, Mrs. Donald Paton, Mrs. William Boys, Mrs. Hazel Archibald Wellesley, Mrs. L. J. Glass, Miss Winnifred Boys and Mrs. Annie Evans. Mrs. Evans joined the Primitive church 61 years ago and was organist at the age of 15.

Mr. Jenkinson read an account of the "gala" cornerstone service of 1904. The register of names taken on Sunday will form a scrap book to replace the original church records burned in the manse fire in 1945.

A silver service, which had been presented to the late Mrs. Duncan McMurchy prior to her marriage in 1899 from the Wesleyan congregation, was used. The gift had recognized her services as organist for seven years. Her son, Marshall McMurchy, who is a Laskay official, read the original presentation address which had been signed by Mrs. Boys and Mrs. Charlotte Peterbaugh.

Mr. Jenkinson read letters of congratulations from those who were unable to be present. They came from Rev. R. J. D. Simpson, Toronto, a former pastor of the charge 60 years ago, Mrs. Annie Thompson Cathcart, a former teacher of Strange school and Sunday school teacher and from Mr. Elmer Davis, Kingston, whose father, the late Hon. E. J. Davis, participated in the ceremony 50 years ago.

At the evening service, Rev. A. C. Forrest, B.A., B.D., Port Credit, was preacher. He spoke of the blessings of "remembering". Mr. Forrest compared the hardships of the pioneers to the easy mode of living in the modern world.

Laskay Congregation 102 Years Old (Continued)

The Thornbury singers, the trio in the morning and a 30-voice choir at night, contributed to the service of worship.

At the evening service, Miss Winnifred Boys and Mrs. Norman Bryson were registry hostesses. The W.M.S. members were hostesses to the choir later in the evening.

- 0 -

Prior to this 50th Anniversary a new Oil Burner Heating Unit was installed in the rear of the church basement. The removal of the old furnace and pipes made a good improvement to the floor space.

Also, at the rear of the church property, the church sheds were removed after being sold, and more ground was cleared of trees. Thus, there is ample parking space available.

This year the Sunday services were changed from afternoon to evening service at 7.30 P.M. during July and August. The Sunday school hour was dispensed with for the summer.

HISTORY OF CHURCHES Cont'd.

Presbyterian

Senator Reesor presented a site for a church, manse and small graveyard on the west side of the 6th con. to the Presbyterian Church of Canada. In 1858 the Rev. Jas. Dick of Richmond Hill Presbyterian church opened a mission at Laskay and in the same year the Church and manse were built.

This church was used continuously until the Union of Churches, June 10th, 1925. Then it was left idle and torn down in the 1940's. Mr. Charles Black has recently built his house on the lot. A few headstones show the site of the graveyard behind his house.

Mr. Wm. Dunning was also clerk in the general store and assistant postmaster. Having an education and being a good penman and bookkeeper, also having acquired a perfect knowledge of conversation in the Gaelic language, he was in great demand for writing deeds and wills.

The manse was built between the church and north of Laskay Hall and is now owned by Mr. Woods.



The above picture is on a postcard which was written on July 29-1910 by Thomas Cairns from Laskay to Miss Jean Patton, and was postmarked Laskay. The stamp was steamed from this card.

Rev. John W. Cameron, born 1851 in New York State, entered Knox College, graduated with a B.A. in 1881, and was immediately invited to take charge of the Presbyterian Church at Laskay. He had charge of churches in the west of King Township, three under him having a membership of 175. The churches were all comfortable frame buildings.

COPY OF INDENTURE OF PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A memorial of an indenture made the twenty ninth day of October in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and sixty one in pursuance of an act respecting short forms of conveyances:

Between the Honorable David Reesor of the Township of Markham in the County of York and Province of Canada esquire of the first part

Emily Reesor wife of the said part of the first part of the second part and...

William Goodfellow of the Townsh p of King in the county of York, aforesaid farmer..James Marsh of the same place farmer trustees of the Canada Presbyterian Church congregation of Laskay of the third part....

Whereby, after reciting as is therein recited it is witnessed that for and in consideration of the sum of twenty pounds of lawful money of Canada to him the said part of the first part in hand well and truly paid (the receipt whereof he did thereby acknowledge) he the said part of the first part did grant unto the said parties of the third part and their successors appointed as thereafter specified by the name of "The trustees of the Canada Presbyterian Congregation of Laskey" All and singular that certain parcel or tract of land and premises situate lying and being in the Village of Laskay in the Township of King in the county of York and Province of Canada containing by admeasurement two fifths of an acre of land be the same more or less, being composed of part of the east half of lot number four in the sixth concession of the said township of King, and may be more particularly known as Village lots number twenty-four and twenty-five on the west side of and fronting on Main street in the village of Laskey aforesaid according to a plan of said village made by George McPhillips Esquire a provincial land surveyor and filed in the registry office of the said county of York on the thirteenth day of August one thousand eight hundred and fifty-six.

To have and to hold the said lands tenements and hereditaments with the appurtenances to the said parties of the third part and their successors to be appointed as thereafter specified in perpetual succession by the name aforesaid. Subject nevertheless to the reservations, limitations, conditions and provisos expressed..in the original grant thereof from the crown and nevertheless upon the trusts and to and for the purposes thereafter...expressed declared and contained of and concerning the same, and it is thereby provided and declared that the said land is granted upon the trusts and to and for the purposes and subject to the provisions thereafter expressed and contained..

That is to say for the sole and only use and benefit of the said congregation, as well for the site of a church, chapel or meeting house, burial ground and residence for the minister (as the said congregation may direct) with the appurtenances for the use of the congregation as for the support and maintenance.

INDENTURE Cont'd.

of --public worship and the propagation of Christian knowledge..According to the Doctrines, discipline and modes of worship of the said Canada Presbyterian Church, and up further trust that they the said parties of the third part, and the trustees for the time being shall and will, well and truly, obey, abide by, perform and fulfil and permit and suffer to be obeyed performed and fulfilled.. with respect and in reference to the above granted premises and to any church, chapel, meeting house or other building or buildings now erected or to be erected upon the said land (the lawful orders and directions of respectively the said congregation the Kirk session of the said congregation, the Presbytery within whose bounds and under whose inspection and Ecclesiastical jurisdiction the said Congregation Church, provided that, and so far only as such orders and directions respectively are and shall be within the scope of the authority of such persons and bodies respectively..according to the laws customs and usages of the said church and with respect to the election and appointment of trustees in succession to the parties thereof of the third part, it is thereby provided and declared that the lands tenements and hereditaments thereby conveyed shall be held upon the trusts and to and for the uses intents purposes thereinbefore expressed..declared and contained of and concerning the same by three trustees elected by the said congregation and who shall all be members of the said congregation in full communion and it is thereby declared that it shall and may at all times be in the power of any trustee or trustees whether named in the said indenture or to be elected in succession to the parties thereto of the the third part, to resign the trusteeship and also that in the event of any trustee or trustees whether named in the said indenture or to be appointed as aforesaid, ceasing to be recognized by the Kirk session of the said congregation as a member in full communion or removing from the bounds of the said congregation or resigning as aforesaid, then and in such case such trustee or trustees shall ipso facto cease to have any right to act under the said indenture.....

..... In witness my hand and seal this twenty-ninth day of October, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-one.

Signed and sealed in presence of

Henry Baldwin,)
William Blackburn) David Reesor L.S.

LASKAY PRESBYTERIAN W.M.S. MEETING

At the home of Mrs. Charles Neill, Lot 5, West Half Con. 6.

About 1914



- 1st. Row -- Mrs. C. Neill & Mildred Armstrong, Mrs. John Watson, Mrs. James Finch, Mrs. J. Harris, Mrs. Kenneth Blanchard, Mrs. John Boys, Mrs. John Ireland, Mrs. Walter Monkman, Mrs. John Gray, (Rev.) Mrs. Robert Brydon & Mary, Mrs. Joe O'Brien.
- 2nd. Row -- Mrs. Will O'Brien, Mrs. Will Bryson, Mrs. John Readman, Mrs. Aaron Campbell, Mrs. Chas. Hately (Jean Paton), Mrs. Arthur Caldwell (Nora Neill), Mrs. Hughie McEachran
- 3rd. Row -- Mrs. William Glass, Sandy & Mac Brydon, Mrs. Fred Willis, Mrs. Len Glass, Mrs. Albert Wells (Annie Glass), Mrs. George D. Paton, Mrs. John Woods, Mrs. Colin Sinclair.
- 4th. Row -- Norman Willis, Roy Neill, Howard Neill, Dudley Watson.



Left.
Presbyterian
Manse.

Right.
house built
on site of
Pres. church,
by Charles
Black.



WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH

King township

Wesley Church would appear to have its origin in the congregation known variously in the early days as "6th Con. Kin," "David Love's Branch", "Love and Dickinson's Branch", the designation more frequently used being "6th King". (There was also a Love's Branch on the 9th of King--Nobleton). The Wesley congregation must have started around 1845, for the Rev. Henry Wilkinson in describing a missionary meeting held in the district refers to it as a "new" appointment. An interesting fact is that the meeting was held in the Presbyterian Church. The extract appearing in the Christian Guardian of Feb. 18, 1846, is as follows:

"The first (i.e. meeting) at Love's in the 6th concession of King, held at 2 p.m.--a new appointment. The meeting being quite back in the woods and held in the day-time, my expectations were very moderate, both as to attendance and the avails. A fair congregation, however, met us in the Presbyterian Chapel which was kindly loaned to us for the occasion. Several of us spoke to the people and God was with us of a truth. It was truly good to be there and I confess I was taken by surprise when the boxes held 2 pounds, 2s. 9d., which handsome collection was followed up by a noble subscription of 8 pounds, 12s. 9d., making a total of 10 pounds, 15.6d., contributed to our Missionary Society in an obscure part of King, and by comparatively a poor people."

And in the Missionary Reports of the Wesleyan Methodist Church for the year 1845-46 the names of some of these subscribers are listed;

Robt. McMullen, Andrew Morton, Nancy Carley, Isabella Wood, John Wood, Wm. Dickinson, Jane Dickinson, Esau Wood, Samuel Hollingshead, John Stevenson, Mary A. Wells, David Love, Sarah Hollingshead, Jesse Jones, Mrs. Jones, Mary Smelser, David Jones." (The Missionary Collectors had been "Mesdames Wood & Jones").

It is also of interest to note that in the following year amongst the subscribers listed at this appointment was the name of "Taws": Rev. John Taws was the Presbyterian minister who had come to the 3rd King in 1837, preaching also on the 6th and 10th of King.

Just where the meetings on the 6th of King were first held cannot be determined from the records available here. There was a report of a log chapel but no definite evidence can be found to substantiate this. In the year 1855-56 the appointment appears in the Missionary Reports as "Roughcast Church Branch"--this is the first time that the word "church" is used in connection with the appointment--and continued to be so designated until 1871-72, when the name "Wesley

WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH cont'd

Church" appears. Unfortunately, no account of the opening of these churches could be found in the Christian Guardian.

From 1845 to 1856 the appointment on the 6th of King, as it was called, was part of the Newmarket Circuit, after that date becoming part of Kleinburg circuit. In 1857 the appointments comprising the circuit were Peterman's, Roughcast, (9th King, Kleinburg, Morrow's, Taylor's.) In 1866 they were listed as Kleinburh, Peterman's, Kellam's, Nobleton, Roughcast, Morrow's, and by 1875 Teston had been added.

The names of families listed as subscribing to the missionary funds of the church in 1856-57 continued to include the names of Love, Marshall, Dickinson, Wood, Hollingshead, as well as Andrews, Crane, Hunter, Morton, Cook, Hill, Samson, Starr, Matchetk Hutty, Porter, Boys. In 1881 the families listed included Harvey, Carley, Marshall, Dickenson, Love.

Just what happened to the Wesley Church congregation after the union of all Methodist bodies in 1884 is not very clear from the records available here. But from a typewritten history of Laskay Church, locally prepared, the following reference to this period occurred.

"In 1884 all Methodist churches were united, but Laskay Primitive Methodist church and the Wesleyan Methodist Church continued to hold services in their buildings, and were served by the same minister until the year 1890."

In 1893 Laskay and King circuits united to form the King and Laskay circuit, which became known later simply as the King Circuit. On this combined circuit were six appointments; King, Wesley, Laskay, Teston, Snowball, Purpleville. This arrangement apparently lasted until 1900, to quote again from the local history.

"In 1900, under the leadership of Rev. George Robinson, the congregation of Wesley Church moved to Laskay Methodist Church and both congregations worked together to build one edifice. When this move took place, the people brought with them the organ, the minister's chair, and carpet. It is in this time of transition the letter of appreciation was drafted and the presentation made of a silver tea set to Miss Annie Marshall (Mrs. Duncan McMurchy) for her services as organist for seven years in the Wesleyan Methodist Church. That tea set was used when celebrating the 50th anniversary.

"This church was situated on lot 8, east side of concession 6. The graveyard still remains).