

In the cycle of time, one hundred and two years, to use a vernacular saying, does not ring a bell in the minds of many people. History however records the fact that Cambridge Street Baptist Church was a century old plus two more years recently.

The occasion was observed by the presence of a guest speaker, plus the presence of a number of the older members of the present congregation.

Strange to relate, the big brass bell in the tall belfry and spire which adorns the church, failed to ring.

There are residents of the town who recall the time a man known as "Happy Jack" Rogers, a steeplejack resident of Lindsay, not only climbed to the point of the spire, but actually stood up on its broad and shining dome. Other citizens remember the days when a gentleman named Chamberlain tolled the bell every Sabbath day. Others will remember when the spire was redecorated and repaired some years ago by the late L. T. Braunton, the big ball at the top being repainted in a golden color.

It is within the memory of many residents of Lindsay and district the days when some of the faithful members included such names Mathews, Whiteside, Ryley, and such ministers as Holmes, Welch, Armstrong, Reeds and others.

Very few can look back to the ministry of a minister named Hueston of whom it was stated built one of the first cottages at Pleasant Point, a cottage opposite the one now occupied by Dr. and Mrs. Dixon of Toronto.

The successful pastorate of Rev. Reed is recalled by many, especially as the gentleman is still a resident of Lindsay and is regularly in his church pew every Sunday.

History of the Cambridge Street Baptist Church brings to light many names of many years ago, founders of the church at Lindsay and Reaboro whose relatives are living in the district. Most prominent in memory are names of Calvert and Magahey. Names of the founders and charter members of the church include William Thornhill, Thomas Richardson, D. Magahey, G. Calvert, Wm. Garnet, D. Fisher, J. C. Calvert, R. Fisher and their wives who were charter members.

Members of the Mathews family, Whiteside, Ryley, Anderson, and Hardy followed years later. One can remember Hon. Albert Mathews we became Governor of Ontario, and E. A. Hardy was a pedagogue on the staff of the Lindsay Collegiate Institute and later became principal of a ladies college in Toronto.

The first church service of the Baptists in Lindsay was held in a private home with 13 members present. Those zealous workers soon got a place for divine worship in a building on Cambridge Street south. Rev. A. A. Cameron was the first minister. He was succeeded in 1866 by Rev. Mathew Gold under whose ministry a church was built on the north west corner of Wellington and Sussex Streets.

One of the early ministers who was loved by his people was Rev. W. Kay Anderson who was in charge for 15 years. The present Church was bought from the Bible Christians about 1886. It was cleared of all debt within a year.