

FORD MOYNES

Dec 27/68
**on the
MAIN STREET**



The Township of Mariposa includes a number of small and larger villages, but one of the villages which has an exciting and interesting background is the now hamlet of Valentia and it is believed that the name originated from a similar borough in England.

The writer is indebted to Mrs. Cephas Jordan for the story which follows. Incidentally the poem below was composed over 108 years ago. It is also of interest to note that Mrs. Jordan's mother, Mrs. Mark, used to relate how the people of long ago used to walk to church and Sunday School and return home and get ready to go at night.

The village of Valentia will be remembered by many residents of the district, as well as by citizens of Lindsay and area and among the familiar and respected families of years ago can be named the Swain's Emersons, Casey's and others. One of the most important annual events has been the Fowl Supper in the Methodist and United Church which has for years attracted many people.

The following poem, was composed 108 years ago respecting Shiloh Church that used to stand at the corner of Noble Swain's farm. It follows:

Respected friends and all that hear,
We still are spared to see this year,
And see the happy time that we
Hold our first anniversary.

Dear friends, today we hope you'll give,
That our blessed Sabbath school may live,
Yes friends, we need your aid today,
And if you help, God will repay.

If there are some who wish to know
Where all the money is to go,
Then I can quickly tell you this
Without saying the least amiss.

You are aware that without grain,
The farmer loudly would complain,
Neither can we, things needful buy,
Unless you first the cash supply.

New books we want our minds to feed,
Of other things we stand in need;
Too numerous to mention here,
As time is short it does appear.

You've heard the pieces one by one,
I hope they have you some good done,
And we now trust friends to receive
The good collection that you'll give.

And then the tables just behind,
With victuals will be quickly lined,
Good eatables of which you're fond,
And drinkables to correspond.

And waiters, too with smiling face,
To help you when you're in your place,
It's "ten" and "twenty," for the tea.
As cheap, I think as it can be.

So friends, I hope you'll all partake,
And a good meal may each one make,
And afterwards may you not say
That you have thrown your mite away.

Knowing this cause is a good one,
And as such should be looked upon.
It tends to keep children from play,
To keep holy the Sabbath Day.

And here we're taught God's blessed truth,
Which is so needful for the youth,
Here, too, is a fit place for all,
Whether they're old, young, great or small.

Soon after you have had your tea,
Some speaking is announced to be,
Our worthy brethren there I guess,
Will each give you a good address.

May you receive what's said with joy,
And all your nobler powers employ,
In Jesus service while you live,
And then the crown you will receive.

And when our meetings here are past,
May we through Christ o'er come at last,
Then may we hear the welcome sound,
Come, faithful ones, My Throne surround.

—Composer unknown.

In the community of Valentia there were three churches, namely Bethesda, Tabor, and Shiloh. Bethesda Christian church was built in 1861. It was situated north of the 2nd concession, across the road from where Nelson Sharpe now lives. It closed in 1889 and the building was moved across the road and part of it used as a dwelling place (Nelson Sharpe house). Tabor Methodist was also built in 1861. It was situated north near the bend across from where Orville (Pete) Hicks now lives. This part of the community was called the South settlement. Services were held regular at 10 a.m. 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. Thomas Webster was superintendent for a number of years, 1887-1891; his son J. C. Webster, now residing in Toronto, attended his first fowl supper 1888, when very small. Shiloh Bible Christian was built in 1859. James Emmerson reported services were held in the homes until they built a frame church.

In 1889 these churches all united and built the present church at Valentia, Shiloh church is part of Frank Tompson's house. The first wedding held in the church was in 1900 when Millie Moffatt and C. A. Felker was married. Mr. Felker passed away in 1917 and Mrs. Felker now resides in Montreal. The Valentia community is very sacred to many of the descendants of the early pioneers. The older members have paid the supreme sacrifice. Mrs. Philip Mark age 96 years is the last remaining member, now living at Valentia.

A memorial electric organ was dedicated to the church June 17th. 1956.

The 75th anniversary of the church was observed on Sunday, October 11th, 1964. Thanksgiving Sunday, which is a special day for the church when the annual Thanksgiving service on Sunday, and turkey supper on Monday takes place.

When you look back over the years and consider the Godly heritage they have left, built churches, schools, and even some of our homes we now enjoy, are we trying to live the high standards of the Christian life and helping to build our community.

Superintendents were: Thomas Webster, 1887-1891; W. R. Swain, 1891-1894; Murray Emerson, 1894-1895; William Suggitt, 1895-1925; George Joblin, 1925-1930; Fred Hore, 1930-1946.