

Remember the days when one of the most familiar tapestry signs or motto, hanging above the door of the family home read "God Bless This Home". A short time ago the writer had the pleasure of visiting at the home of a highly esteemed couple in Fenelon Township and noticed one of these historic articles and the message was "Home Sweet Home".

This was at the one hundred year old farmstead of Miss Lena Elford and her brother Charles Elford, situated near Islay corners, north of Cambray.

In the front room appeared a large framed picture of the Elford family numbering fourteen. The Elford family tree has its roots back in merry old England and Miss Lena and Mr. Charles were mere youngsters when the original Elford home was hewn out of the bush in Fenelon Township. They attended the little red school house and as time passed Miss Lena furthered her education in the Lindsay Collegiate Institute and a few years following became a public school teacher.

The Elford's readily recall school days and the visits of School Inspector Reazin and also at times School Inspector Knight, the days when one teacher taught reading, writing, arithmetic, history, geography, art, writing and a bit of agriculture. They remember well the old wood stove and the long sticks of hardwood tossed into the stove until it almost burst with the heat.

They remember with gratitude the many fine families in the district — the Geach family, Worsley, Moynes, Murchison, Sinclair, Tolmie, Gilchrist, Spence and others.

The subject of politics was approached delicately and the name of an old friend, Sir Sam Hughes, popped up. A casual mention was made regarding Prime Minister Trudeau and the leaders at Ottawa, but questions and answers were diplomatic.

Favorite radio programs of the Elford's include the news broadcast and on the Sabbath day they tune in to church services on Sunday.

“The way of life is very

much different today but that is to be expected," said Miss Elford. "The world and the people are moving faster and it is at times hard to understand young people and even their elders, but with all the motor cars and even the great strides made in science and people climbing to the moon — well, anything can take place. We enjoy the radio and we read the Lindsay Post and so we keep abreast with the times," said the former school teacher.

Many friends of this interesting couple will be pleased to learn that they are enjoying good health, Mr. Elford in his 91st year and Miss Elford in her 94th.

* * *

Millions of gallons of water have trickled and tumbled over the Lindsay Street dam in the past century and beyond, and thousands and thousands of people have worshipped as Methodists and United Church members and adherents in the past 134 years and prior to that period. There is nothing in common relative to the above introduction but it allows for the introduction of the news item that a few weeks ago members of Cambridge Street United Church observed the 134th anniversary by holding special services.

Actually Methodism in Lindsay goes further back, back to the days when Rev. John Sanderson the First, trudged on foot and partly on horseback from the hills of Cavan Township to the swampy settlement of Purdy's Mills, now Lindsay.

It is reported that this pioneer "sky pilot" encountered Indians and wild bears but was not actually molested.

First meetings were held in humble homes and the first Methodist Church was in a small brown clapboard house on the south side of Wellington Street, near William Street. When the stalwarts witnessed the zeal and loyalty of the little flock it was decided to build a church at the corner of William and Wellington Streets and a beautiful and commodious Church it was, with long windows rounded at

the top resembling the windows associated with the Canadian Fathers of Confederation Parliament building in old Newfoundland. The congregation sat on benches and the choir on special elevated benches near the wooden pulpit.

One of the pioneers of the church was William Skitch, father of Mr. Percy Skitch and the choir leader used a tuning fork as there was no music box or organ.

As the years went by and the congregation grew and prospered it was decided to build a new church at the corner of Cambridge and Bond Streets and the pioneers of the day "built better than they knew", a large and beautiful edifice. As the years sped along, a large gallery was installed to accommodate the larger membership. The congregation passed through troublesome days but managed to weather many a financial storm, largely due to the loyalty of a number of people who backed their enthusiasm and faith with their dollars.

If there was a small degree of friendly rivalry among the churches in the historic Bay of Quinte Conference it involved George Street Church in Peterborough, Bridge Street Church in Belleville and Brock Street Church in Brockville and the Lindsay congregation

always was able to maintain high prestige financially as well as in a long list of highly qualified ministers.

A number of clergymen who stood out as preachers and administrators in Cambridge St. Church included Rev. Dr. Bishop, Rev. Dr. Holling, Rev. Barraclough, Rev. E. Val Tilton, Rev. Going and Rev. Black. Rev. F. H. McIntosh was also a beloved pastor as was Rev. H. B. Neall.

Retired ministers who rendered faithful service included Rev. Francis Johnston and Rev. Thos. Brown.

In the many choirmasters and organists, Parnell Morris was outstanding, but the one who rendered the longest and most valuable service was Cecil Carl Forsythe. The choir at the time numbered forty and included seven soloists, none of whom were paid except Miss Brownscombe and Mrs. Norm. Lindsay, now a resident of London.

Choir concerts were annual events in the days gone by and a number of plays were presented by the choir in the Academy Theatre during the leadership of Mr. Forsythe and these included "The Lass of Limerick", "Nautical Knot", and "Queen Esther".

In adding the word 'Finis', mention should be made of the outstanding contribution of a very fine organist and choirmaster, W. E. Fletcher, who had a long and highly successful tenure of office. This gentleman is a resident on Adelaide Street.