

A recent article in this column regarding some historical facts concerning old cemeteries and burial grounds in the Township of Mariposa caught the eyes of Ross W. Irwin, a former township resident now of Guleph, who suggests that some interested person should chronicle the names and dates on the old stones in the pioneer graveyards in the township before they are entirely obliterated.

Mr. Irwin also sends along the following article taken from his book "History of Mariposa Township" which will be found of interest to many readers:

The first reference to Wesleyan services that can be identified with Little Britain are in 1859 when an Orange Hall branch is reported for the first time. The Orange Hall was located one and a half miles south of the village. Services continued in the hall until the building proved to be inadequate. Land was purchased at the corner of King and Mark Streets and a new brick church was built. This church was dedicated December 25, 1870 by Rev. Wm. Burns. The minister was supplied from Oakwood and preached an afternoon service here.

Following the church union of 1884 the last service in this church was held May 18, 1884. The congregation then attended the former Bible Christian church in the village. The next year this church with its sheds was taken down and rebuilt at Salem where it stands in a modified form today.

GRAHAM'S WESLEYAN METHODIST CHURCH

This church was in Ops Township but is closely related to the religious life of Mariposa. One of the first references to this branch is in 1856. The branch probably met before this date but the location of such meetings is unknown.

In January 1859, John Graham gave land at the northeast corner of the west half of lot 21, concession 1, Ops Township upon which to build a church. The old Oakwood road passed by on the north side at this time. The building was finally completed and dedicated by the Rev. James Brock of Peterborough, chairman of the District, at 10½ o'clock on October 8, 1865. Services were also held at 2½ p.m. and a Soiree was held the Monday.

The congregation outgrew the church and at the same time the new road allowance was opened 40 rods north. It has been said that the old church was moved to its present site at the north east corner of lot 23, concession 1, Ops Township in 1878. This church was dedicated Sunday, September 29, 1878 by Rev. Dr. W. Jeffers of Lindsay with services at 10:00 a.m., 2:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. The congregation was supplied from Oakwood until about 1918. The church dwindled and with the coming of the automobile people went to other churches. The church was sold in 1926.

The old cemetery located at the original church site contains the remains of about 25 people with dates of burial ranging from 1841 until 1879. Some of the family names connected with this early church were: Lee, Naylor, Campbell, Moore, Graham, Fee and Bryson.