

WALDEMAR METHODIST CHURCH 1872 - 1919

Waldemar also had a Methodist Church built in 1872 on property now owned by Mr. J. Jinlay. Located on the hill overlooking the village south of Mrs A. Graves dwelling, it was a frame building painted white and was attended by a goodly number from the village and the surrounding community.

There was a large two-storey shed to the north of the church. The shed was, of course, used to shelter horses during service and the large upstairs was used for church suppers and the traditional tea meeting in the main.

Services were usually conducted by the resident minister from Grand Valley or his assistant. Grand Valley had assistant ministers for a number of years as Monticello and Colbeck as well as Waldemar were included in the circuit.

During later years services were held in Waldemar at 3 o'clock preceded by Sunday School at 2 o'clock. Earlier, evening services were held, which were well attended in the main.

It is thought the first minister was Rev. John Sanderson followed by Rev. W. Willmott, Rev. W.W. Fidell, Rev. W. Bielby in 1883, after whom Bielby Street in Grand Valley is named, Rev. J.R. Isaacs, Rev. Cohor and Rev. W.E. Stafford. Most ministers remained two years.

Since the turn of the century, the following ministers and assistants were: Rev. Lounders, Rev. Sevigny, Rev. Smithernan, Rev. Patterson, Rev. H.A. Johnson, Rev. W.S. Daniels, Rev. Roadhouse, Rev. Poole and Rev. Cooper.

Rev. Cooper was the minister in charge when the church was closed in 1919. Many of the congregation had moved away and it was felt that the remainder could attend services in nearby Grand Valley or in the local Presbyterian Church. It was with much regret that the church officials found it wise to close this charge.

-Standish Hunt and Mrs.J.Byers

