

ROSE, Mary Annabella: Funeral services were held from the Millroy Funeral Chapel, Paisley, on October 20, for Mary Annabella Rose, who passed away at the Saugeen Villa Nursing Home, Hanover, on October 18.

Mrs. Rose was in her 74th year at the time of death.

Born on May 31, 1908, in Elsinor, she was the daughter of the late John Boyd and the former Matilda Chebott.

Mrs. Rose was a long-time resident of Bruce Township and attended the Paisley Baptist Church for many years.

She is predeceased by her husband, Ernest Rose, and two brothers, Graham and Frank.

She is survived by one brother, Livingston Boyd of Ottawa, five nieces, and one nephew.

Funeral services were conducted by the Rev. Brian Donst, with interment at Lovat Cemetery, Bruce Township.

WARMINGTON—Mrs. Margaret, in Allenford, Friday, March 11th, 1983, the former Margaret Loucks, wife of Clarence Warmington of Allenford. Mother of Beatrice (Mrs. Ken Carson) RR 2, Tara. Sister of Lane (Mrs. Walter Napier) of Kapuskasing; Theresa (Mrs. William Beirnes) of RR 1 Hepworth; Mary (Mrs. Don Husband) of Owen Sound; Wilfred of RR 1 Hepworth. Predeceased by one brother, Abe. Also surviving are four grandchildren and six great grandchildren. Friends may call at the Downs and Son Funeral Home, Hepworth after 2 p.m. Sunday. Complete funeral service in the funeral home Monday, at 2 p.m. Interment Hillcrest Cemetery, Tara. If so desired, donations to the Canadian Cancer Society or the Red Cross Society would be appreciated as your expression of sympathy.

Citizens seek to save 131-year-old church

The following story appeared in a recent edition of the Owen Sound Sun Times.

The same faith that moved a group of settlers near here to cut down cedar trees from the banks of the Saugeen and build a small log church is today motivating the same settlers' descendants to save this 131-year-old church from the ravages of time.

"It's a tribute to those whose faith made it possible, as well as to give thanks at the present time," said Beatrice Scott, one of two Port Elgin sisters who are involved with a committee of area residents repairing and redecorating the tiny Dunblane Presbyterian Church.

Beatrice and her sister, Jean, are the grandchildren of Robert Scott, who donated the land to the congregation in the late 1850s. Four generations of Scotts have attended the church, running down in the morning before the service to start the woodstove, and during the service, sitting in the back pew of the church that gave them a clear view across the fields to their home.

Services were always held in the afternoon at the Dunblane church, because the congregation was never large enough to warrant its own minister. About 20 families helped cut the logs for the church, and many of their descendants now take part in the once-yearly service held the first Sunday in August.

Regular services were given up in 1968 when the congregation just got too small to be able to pay the minister. At that time, about six families regularly attended the church.

"It dwindled down as people moved away," said Jean, explaining that at its height, a regular congregation of about 70 might be expected for Sunday services.

This fate was not uncommon for rural churches, as people started to move off the farm and into urban areas. The Scotts moved out of their late 19th century farmhouse and into Port Elgin when their father died.

Although the congregation's numbers had decreased, their belief in their church had not.

At the 1981 service, Rev. R. D. MacDonald told a stunned group that since the trustees of the church felt they could no longer look after the building, it had been recommended that no more services be held in the building that had been a house of worship for 130 years. The church needed extensive repairs and unless the money could be raised, the always-open doors would have to be shut for good.

"We felt it would be a shame to let it go," said Jean Scott, sitting in one of the hand-carved pews made for the church by her great-uncle years ago.

"It was very close to us," said Jean.

For the Scott sisters, the church is a link with their family and their religion that would be too strong to relinquish. Peter Scott, who carved the pews and the communion table for the church in the late 1800s, was also the first session clerk at the church, and just a few years ago, the Scott sisters' nephew, Rev. Dr. John Scott, celebrated his first communion and gave the anniversary service in the Dunblane pulpit.

Beatrice, who served as a missionary in India for 30 years, was designated at a service in the church she had attended all of her life.

Other families felt the same strong link. The Gowanlock family, who owned the barn where the early congregation worshipped, lost a family member in the First World War who is remembered on a plaque honouring war dead in the church, and just this month, a young Gowanlock woman was married at the church.

Other area residents have volunteered their services to the church, and the Scotts are pleased to point out a number of young people, who have no past link with the church, have been interested enough to help.

Although there is no full-time caretaker, congregation members can be quickly marshalled for a cleaning bee, and the door to the small white clapboard building is always open for passers-by.

The church committee hopes to have a new roof for the church started by this fall and by next year's August service, there should be a rain-proof roof, repaired foundations and a newly-decorated interior.

All the work is being financed by donations, and the Scotts have few worries about the venture's success.

The church has slightly more sophistication than when built by a group of farmers anxious for a formal place, no matter how rough, in which to worship. But the small church by the Saugeen River remains a spare, unadorned building.

The original logs were covered by plaster and clapboard sometime in the late 1870s, and inside wainscoting and wallpaper were put up, and the pews, altar and communion table painted. There are no stained-glass windows, no new, glossy prayer books, and no modern conveniences, like indoor plumbing or electricity.

Outside there is little room for parking, and the last concession made to modern transportation methods was a shed built for horses early this century.

Jean and Beatrice remember when people travelled to services by buggy or even by boat. They remember winter services when people came to church in sleighs, and sat in their coats, the oil lamps burning, listening to the service.

The committee looking after the church has no plans to install plumbing or electricity, and as much as possible wants to keep the original flavour of the historic building.

"You have to keep the atmosphere," said Jean.

The Dunblane church will likely never again house regular Sunday worship. It has no woodstove, and although people are interested in the building, it's doubtful a full congregation could be attracted. But Jean and Beatrice hope the yearly service will continue and wonder if, as in the past, evening concerts or services could be held in the church.

The church has had a longevity not enjoyed by the small hamlet that gave it its name. Dunblane, an enclave of early Scottish settlers, was at one time a small gathering of stores, a mill and a school. The nearby school is still standing but no longer used for its original purpose. The other buildings have gone.

But for the Scotts and their fellow church members, keeping the Dunblane church standing and open for worship is a commitment that has lasted 131 years and isn't likely to be broken today.

Tara Leader, Thursday, June 20, 1975



Receives degree

Anna Maureen Jeanette Gowanlock, graduated from Dalhousie University with a Bachelor of Science Degree. Grandparents Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Gowanlock, R.R.1 Allenford. Pictured above are Maureen and her father at the recent graduation. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Gowanlock and family reside at Lower Sackville, N.S.



Be one of the crowd - come to the Bruce Centre District W.I.'s Craft and Hobby Fair at the Southampton Coliseum, Thursday, July 8th, 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.

The death occurred in Allenford on Friday, March 11, 1983 of Mrs. Clarence Warmington (nee Margaret Loucks). Survived by her husband Clarence, and one daughter, Beatrice (Mrs. Ken Carson) RR 2 Tara, also sisters: Lane (Mrs. Walter Napier) of Kapuskasing; Theresa (Mrs. Wm. Beirnes) RR 1 Hepworth; Mary (Mrs. Don Husband) of Owen Sound; one brother, Wilfred of RR 1 Hepworth. Predeceased by one brother, Abe. Also survived by four grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

The funeral service was held at the Downs and Son Funeral Home, Hepworth,

Mrs. Norman Kearns (Laura Evelyn Messam) died in Toronto on Sunday, March 6, 1983. Deceased was in her 61st year.

Born a daughter to Ethel Messam of Allenford, she had resided in Toronto for some years, and in young womanhood was united in marriage to Mr. Norman Kearns, who survives. Also surviving are her family: Arlene (Mrs. Jim Purdie) of Waterloo; and Patricia (Mrs. Doug Stephens) of Sharon; grandchildren, Sandra and Shelley Warcup and Scott and Rob Purdie; sister of Elgin Messam of Allenford.

Funeral service was held Wednesday, March 9, at 2 p.m.

Interment Hillcrest Cemetery, Tara.