

The centennial quilt, hand-made by members of the Prince Edward District Women's Institute will be taken next week to Ameliasburgh Museum, where it will be on display throughout the summer. After that it is expected to go to Wellington Museum, where it will likely become a permanent exhibit.

Last fall the quilt was displayed at the County Fair, where it attracted much admiration.

The beautiful quilt, a centennial project paying tribute to the founding men and women of this county, consists of 11 blocks, one for each W.I. branch. Each block was designed and embroidered by the members of that institute to represent a historical building or scene in that area.

The blocks were put together by Mrs. Bernard Brooks, and the quilting was done by the Cherry Valley Women's Institute. Mrs. Brooks, who is district curator for Tweedsmuir Histories, Prince Edward County Women's Institute, wrote a brief history to go with each quilt block.

In an earlier edition (Sept. 5), The Gazette ran several of these histories. Herewith are printed the last two of the series, historical backgrounds for the Athol Township block which was made in four sections, and for the Gilberts Mills block, which shows the old White Chapel at Conger's Mills.

The quilt block suggests four highlights of community life in Athol Township. The first depicts the Wicked Point Lighthouse. Salmon Point received its former name Wicked Point because of the many savage storms and wrecks off the point during the 1800's. A lighthouse was built sometime before 1878. The building was of white frame, having three different landings besides the tower which contained a white stationary coal-oil light. The Keepers were Peter Huff, Lewis Hudgin, Amos MacDonald (1897 to 1909), Anson Shortt, Jim Kavanagh, and Alex Clarke. The light was closed in 1917. After this successive owners were George Cummings, T. G. Bowerman, and Stanley Rankin.

The second highlight is the Salmon Point Methodist Church which was built in 1877 on land donated by James Spencer. The Trustee Board at the time included William Rankin, Thomas Rankin, Calvin Rankin, James Burlingham, John Spencer, Stephen Crandall, William Blakely, William Tubbs, and Samuel Yarwood.

It was built of red brick with eight tall graceful pointed windows. Later in the early 1900's it was stuccoed and the interior tastefully panelled and renovated. The Church in 1967 was sold to Mr. Hill who converted it into a private home. The congregation joined with the Cherry Valley United Church group in the South Pastoral Charge of Prince Edward.

The third section of the block depicts the Athol Township Hall which was built on land formerly owned by Walter Ogden. It was erected in 1872 in the hamlet of Cherry Valley. The brick for the

walls came from Asa Werden's Mill at Woodrour Corners. The construction of the hall with heavily reinforced stone and mortar foundation plus attached sheds cost 1,600 dollars.

In the early nineteen hundreds the need of a kitchen was felt and the Women's Institute with Mrs. W. R. Browne and Mrs. S. P. Dodds as conveners proceeded to raise the necessary funds to build and equip a then modern part of the Township hall.

A fireproof cement block vault has recently been added as have many new improvements by the Council and Women's Institute. Various groups of Athol people constantly make use of this Community Hall.

The final section of the block shows that May 20, 1967 was the official opening of the Athol Centennial School which saw the closing of seven smaller schools in the township. It is located adjacent to the old No. 3 Athol School in Cherry Valley. The Board consisted of M. F. Dulmage (chairman), W. S. Rankin, J. Whiteford Jr., H. Ostrander, G. Young and Mrs. H. McConnell. The teaching staff for 1967 included Mrs. D. Eveleigh (Principal), Mrs. K. Trumble, Mrs. N. Welsh, Mrs. F. Bell, Mrs. G. Hargrove, Mrs. S. Newcombe, Mrs. B. Bongard, and Mr. R. Binch.

THE CONGER CHAPEL

"Sunday, the 16th. In the old church at Conger's Mills. This was the principal church on the circuit before the one in the village was erected, five years ago; but a more awkwardly house for worship I do not wish to see. It has three galleries but the floors in them are level and only seated with rough plank or loose boards. They are too high, and being level, the pulpit has to be stuck up towards the moon in order to see the people in them." (1)

So wrote a Methodist circuit rider in 1825 about the Old Chapel, the first Methodist Church located two miles from Picton on the High Shore Road in 1809. In fact it represents one of the oldest styles in architecture in Upper Canada.

The White Chapel was sturdily constructed of wood by William Moore about 1809 on land donated previous to 1784 by Stephen Conger, a Loyalist from New Jersey who had settled with his family in Hallowell Township about 1786. His father, David Conger set up a saw-mill near this spot and later a grist mill for the local farmers.

Surely the rough planks and the simple architecture reflected the emotional and spiritual needs of the common working man who was often not included in the congregation of the established Church of England. The first Sunday of every June witnessed a revival of worship at the chapel.

These services are conducted by the United Church which absorbed Methodism in 1925. Consequently much of the old emotionalism or "Hot Gospel" (2) has disappeared. But each year an attempt is made to capture one segment of the way of life of our forefathers.

The influence of religion has been significant on the social life and customs of our County. This congregation around Mountain View known as the Wesleyan Methodists decided after some years of meeting in the Union School at Mountain View that they would build a red brick Church on part of Lot 68 in the 4th Concession of Ameliasburg on land donated by Huldah and Cornelius Hubbs and David Sprung. The contract for the building was let to William James Davis of Belleville on December 13, 1877, for the sum of \$3,000. Supplying all the materials, he was to finish the building in six months, provided the local farmers laid the stone for the foundation. Davis offered to build the church without a gallery for \$300 less. But the congregation felt that a gallery was well worth the extra expense. A dedication was held in June, 1878.

In 1882 sheds were built and the basement was finished a year later, largely by volunteer help. This basement housed many a Sunday School meeting, Temperance Society gathering, and other activities.

First known as the Wesleyan Church and later as the Union it became part of the United Church in 1925. It was then named the Mountain View United Church. In 1967, the congregations of Ameliasburg and Massassaga Churches amalgamated with the Mountain View congregation and it is now known as Wesley United Church at Mountain View. With the Friendship United Church at Demorestville it forms the Prince Edward North Pastoral Charge under James Cullen, who was inducted to this pastorate in July, 1969.