

# Original pioneers have names on plaque

Continued from page 6

The only services held now are a memorial service in the summer, and the occasional wedding and funeral. On Aug. 15, the church held its annual celebration of its history.

Its white clapboard started to peel a few years ago. The committee has painted an undercoat, but it has plans of completing the job in the new future.

The stone foundation has been restored as well as the roof.

"We haven't received any grants for the church," said Beryl, sitting at the table of the red brick farmhouse Lawrence's grandfather built. His uncle the Rev. H.H. Mutton was church president from 1897 to 1908.

"We keep it up through the committee and the help of the Shiloh ladies group," she said. "The work is all voluntary help. We have a good group of volunteers who think a lot of maintaining the church. Most of the people grew up here."

People who grew up in the area always come back for the memorial service. Money collected through offerings goes towards keeping the church in a good state of repair.

Lawrence moved into the house in 1945 after returning from overseas duty during the war. In 1939, Lawrence was shipped to England with the Royal Canadian Horse Artillery. He was part of the first Canadian regular forces (First Division) to cross the Atlantic at the beginning of the war.

He met Beryl, south of London in 1940 while stationed in England. They were married shortly after. Lawrence served in France and Italy.

Beryl came to Canada on Mar. 4, 1946. "When I got here there was no hydro or running water," she said.

Beryl picks up the old photograph again. "There used to be an old platform at the front of the church. People could drive their horse and buggy up to the front door and step onto the platform," she said.

The church was constructed from virgin timber in the immediate area. The original pews are still in the church made from solid pieces of pine. The clapboard is made from bass.

"We were cursing it (the clapboard) the other day when we went to look at it to start painting," said Beryl. "The bass wood doesn't withstand the weather very well."

Located on the front of the church is a heritage plaque. It lists the names of the original families who were responsible for building the church. The list includes William Mutton, Robert Dunnett, William Philp and Henry Wilkes.

Architecturally the church is simply constructed. There's no steeple.

"The Methodists were plain. As far as they were concerned, it was a place to go to worship," said Beryl. "They didn't need anything too fancy."

The interior is plain as well. The walls are simply painted. Three rows of pews with two aisles divide the church. The pulpit is made from pine, and is just high



Rustic charm is part of the attraction of the old Wesleyan Methodist Church on Penryn Road.

enough so that the congregation could see the minister.

There are two woodstoves on each side of the church with the pipes still leading to the vents on the walls. "The front of the church always heated up first," said Lawrence.

Wood was stored under two pews located on both sides at the rear of the

building.

The only ornate characteristic about the church is the patterned tin ceiling put in sometime at the turn of the century.

All of Lawrence's family attended services at the church. In fact it was his sister, Elsie Packard, who cut the 125th anniversary cake in 1988 at a special memorial service. His daughters even

taught Sunday school at the church.

The Shiloh church closed the same time as three others in the area.

"The congregation became smaller and we couldn't support the church," said Lawrence. "New people who move into the neighborhood aren't always interested in the church, and those who do move here only stay for the weekend."

**By Bob Owen - 344-7653**

COLBORNE CHRONICLE  
AUG 31/93



**Winners** — The Party Paks were 14-4 winners in their Castleton Sunday Night Mixed Three Pitch game against Pupps Rentals. Pictured are Erica Meekes (in front), Mary Darling, Linda Moore, Heike Polley, Terry Moore (front row), Linda Marshman, Dan Marshman, Rick Polley, Mario Meekes, Ric Collins, Dan Darling, Rita Collins and Lisa Meekes (back row).