

# Cooper Church Marks 100th Anniversary

Cooper United Church recently celebrated the 100th anniversary of its opening in 1866, with special services and a supper for the congregation and visitors.

The anniversary church service was in charge of Rev. Plagar of White Lake, a former pastor. Rev. Sedewick occupied the pulpit for the evening service. Mrs. C. B. McCoy and Mrs. F. Bailey provided musical numbers. Mr. Eldon Hardy of Malone assisted the Bailey brothers in two quartet selections and Miss Katherine Burnside was guest soloist.

On the Saturday evening before the anniversary services about 300 residents and guests enjoyed a buffet supper, served by the women of the church in the church yard. Mrs. McCoy and Mrs. Bailey presented a short program in the church and Rev. Sedgewick, minister, was chairman. The program consisted of selections by the choir, a solo by Kenneth Bronson and greetings from Rev. G. Ambury of Kingston, Rev. Patterson of Whitby, both former pastors of the church. Rev. Patton of Toronto, Mr. E. C. Lewis of Picton and Rev. Fletcher of Lansdown, all unable to be present, sent congratulatory messages.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Bailey and Mr. Lonne Irwin presented a guest book in which to record visitors' names, in memory of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Irwin.

Cooper United Church was formerly "St. Columba Presbyterian Church. Before it was opened in 1866, services were held in the first Cooper school, a small log building situated across the laneway from the present church. Rev. William Gregg, a missionary sent to Canada from Glasgow, appears to have been the first preacher in the area. In his diary, Mr. Gregg records having preached at the Allen Settlement in 1847 and 1848. He travelled on horseback and records having stayed with "a family named Cooper", William Long Sr. and Hugh Blair Sr.

In 1864 the Presbyterians of the district laid the stone foundation for a church, with Samuel Caskey Sr. mentioned as a leader in the venture. The following year the body of the church was erected and in 1866 the church was completed and temporary seats were placed. In the early 1870s Daniel S. Bird, a local carpenter, tore down the steeple and built a new one. William Sills of Madoc was the painter. A Sunday School addition was added in 1880.

The first elders were Samuel Caskey Sr., William Long, and William John Rollins. Thomas Allen was treasurer. The first ordained minister was Rev. Wisheart, who preached in Madoc Presbyterian Church and had charge of all Presbyterian marriages and baptisms in North Hastings. Subsequent ministers were Rev. Murray, Rev. Childer-

hose, Rev. Claxton, Mr. Lindsay, Rev. Leitch, Mr. Robinson, Mr. Telford, Rev. McLung, Rev. Sinclair, and Rev. Thompson.

The first Sunday School superintendent was Samuel Rollins Sr. Other officials and teachers were George Rollins, Hank Rollins, W. T. Allen, George Ferguson, Miss Jennie Tuller, Miss Sara Tuller, Jennie and Annie Vankleek, Annie M. and Ida Allen, James Wilson, Charles Thompson and Sandy MacLure. Sam Rollins Jr. was librarian for a number of years.

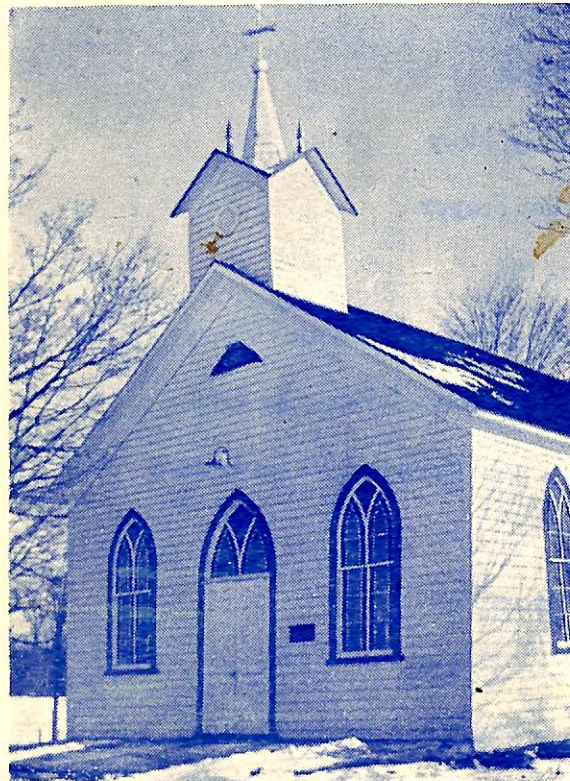
Until the Methodists built their church in 1902, all children of both denominations attended St. Columba Sunday School. St. Columba Church, together with St. Andrew's in Queensboro and St. Paul's in Eldorado made up the Presbyterian charge until 1923, two years before church union, when St. Columba became Cooper United Church.

Many descendants of the church's founders still live in the district and were present at the anniversary celebrations. are completed.

## One Hundredth Anniversary

1866 - 1966

### Cooper United Church



Sunday, July 31st, 1966

11 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Rev. W. Sedgewick  
Minister

Rev. V. Plager  
Guest Minister

#### Ministers after Church Union

- Rev. J. M. White 1923-27.  
 Rev. G. Adams 1928-29.  
 Rev. J. N. Beckstead 1930. Mr. C. E. Muckle 1948-49.  
 Rev. J. R. Trumppow 1931-33. Rev. G. McKenzie 1949-51.  
 Rev. W. Fletcher 1934-36. Mr. E. V. C. Lewis 1951-58  
 Rev. S. Smith 1937-38. Rev. V. Plager 1958-61.  
 Rev. Geo. Crabbe 1939-41. Rev. G. Ambury 1961-64.  
 Mr. G. Ralph 1942. Rev. W. Sedgewick 1964-66.  
 Rev. H. W. Patterson 1943-45.  
 Rev. Geo. Patten 1945-48.

Donated by Margaret Campbell, daughter of Mrs. S. Harris.