

The following is an account taken from a newspaper clipping submitted by James W. Wilson: (possibly published in the early sixties)

REPORT ON HISTORY OF EPWORTH UNITED CHURCH  
SINCE ITS FOUNDATION

An excellent report on the history of Epworth United Church was given by James W. Wilson of Woodlawn at the special anniversary services held in the church on Sunday, September 4.

Here is Mr. Wilson's report:

During the years around 1869 services were held in the ~~church~~ second story of the home of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Wilson, on whose property, the church was afterwards built. The services were conducted by a Methodist minister whose name has skipped the memory of the now oldest survivors of those days.

The congregation so increased that the house no longer was spacious or solid enough to hold all the attendants. The story is told that one Sabbath when the congregation had gathered for worship the minister was not to be found and on investigation they discovered that he was shut in the "spare room" whither he had gone for meditation and prayer before service. When the congregation had gathered the weight had so sprung the beams as to make it impossible to open the room door. This incident put the people to thinking of building a church. The result was the erection of the present house of worship in the year 1871 or 72 as a Methodist church.

In the year 1889 the building was remodelled and a new pulpit and new seats installed. While remodelling was done services were held in the shed.

The same structure, with the necessary repairs being made from time to time remains to this day.

Since 1925 it has been a part of the United Church of Canada. Here we still gather to study the word of God and meditate on His ways.

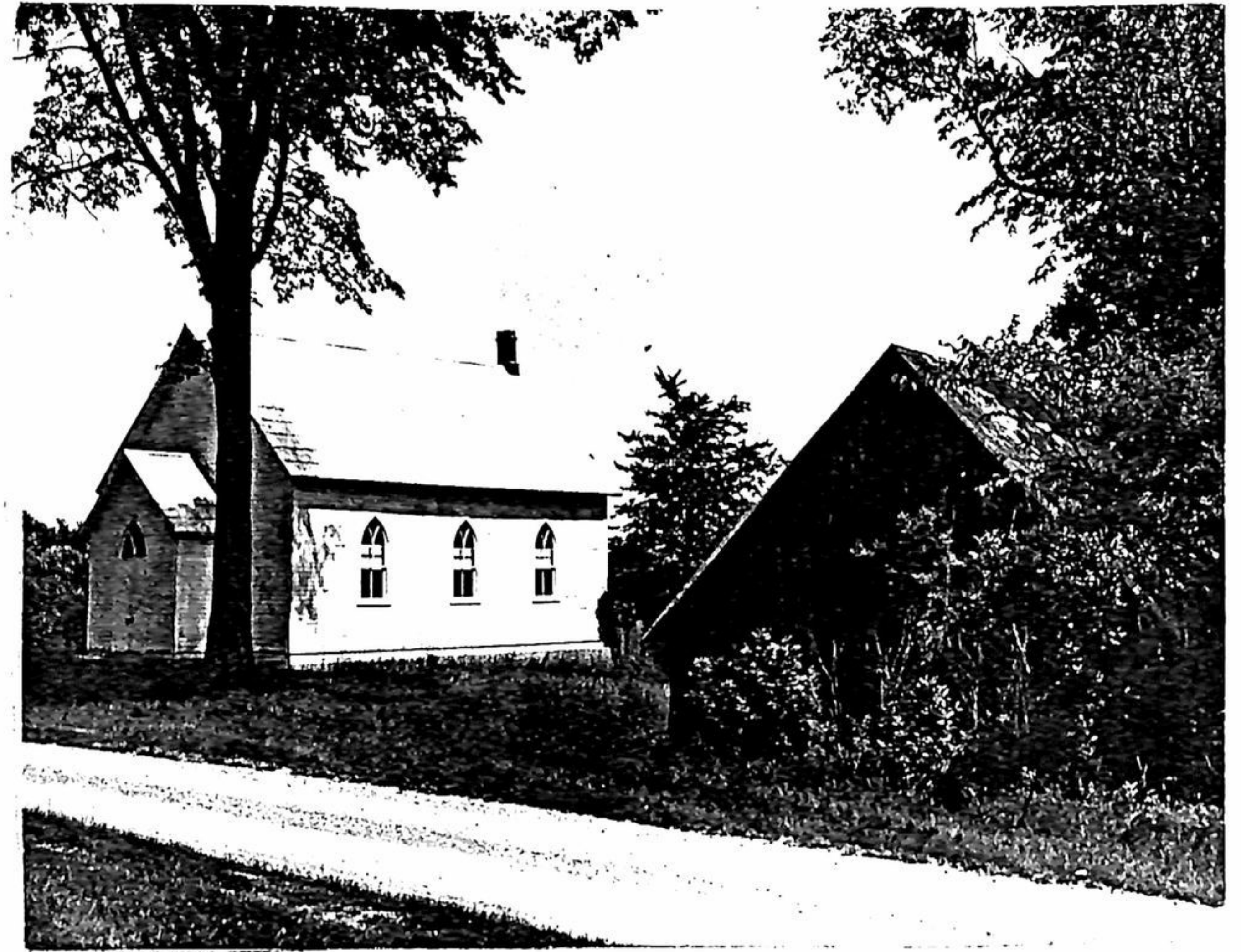
May God continue to bless the Minister and congregation as they meet for worship in this church of our forefathers--the pioneers of Fitzroy and Torbolton.

The names of clergymen ministering here from early times to present times:

Rev. Austin, Rev. Toppings, Rev. Poser, Rev. Wilson, Rev. Isaac Wheatley, Rev. Carl Allum, Rev. Charlesworth, Rev. Keough, Rev. Pimlott, Rev. James Lawson, Rev. R. Street, Rev. Williams, Rev. H. W. W. Bromwich, Rev. Herbert Maitland, Rev. Boomhour.

Since Union:

Rev. Gladstone Wood, Rev. McMillan, Rev. Robertson, Rev. Booth, Rev. Shaver, Rev. Loughheed, Rev. LeGrow, present minister, Rev. Martin.



EPWORTH CHURCH, AUG. 1963

The next minister after Mr. Wilson's report was Mr. Cruikshank. REV. Mr. Lucas followed him and while he was the Minister the Church was closed down. That was in Sept. 1956. The congregation went some to Kinburn and some to Fitzroy Harbour.



EPWORTH CHURCH AND CEMETERY (Photos by Bill Cox)

In 1965, the trustees for the cemetery and church are Fred Smith, and Russel Carr. The second Sunday in June is Memorial Service.

FAMILY NAMES IN THE CHURCH RECORDS:

Brown, Bradley, Barr, Gordon, Smith, Wilson, Anderson, Ritchie, Carr, Findlay, Bishop, Bidgood, McBride, Stackhouse, Craig, Gibson.