

# Lakeside Church Built By E. Nissouri Pioneers

TOMORROW is the 86th anniversary of the building of Christ Church, Lakeside, Oxford County, and will be celebrated in special services and confirmation in charge of Bishop C. A. Seager, assisted by the present rector of the church, Rev. S. Semple.

Many changes have taken place since the building of the church 80 years ago. Those faithful workers knew nothing about the modern conveniences of today, the telephone, the radio, the automobile, the airplane, but have now passed to their reward and many lie in the cemetery that surrounds their church.

In the early years of the Township of East Nissouri, eight years after it was separated from the Township of West Nissouri and eight years before the Dominion of Canada came into existence, the year 1859, Lakeside was described as a small post village, consisting of one general store, D. D. Rose, postmaster; one blacksmith shop, Enoch Burdick; a grist and saw mill, William Joseph Garner; a brickyard, Thomas and Charles Shrubsole; a school, C. McPherson, teacher; a wagon shop, H. Burdick; one hotel, S. Pelton.

In the year 1859 the Rev. William Brookman came to Thamesford. He was commissioned as a missionary to Thamesford, Dorchester, Delaware and surrounding districts. He was a very energetic man and by 1861 had a congregation formed in Thamesford, and St. Johns Church opened. By 1862 St. Georges Church, Thorndale, and Grace Church, Nissouri, were under construction. He then turned his attention to the Village of Lakeside and a meeting was held there on October 6, 1862, at which the enthusiastic gathering decided to build a church and listed their promises for contributions on the spot.

James Ingersoll, a half-brother of the famed Laura Secord, donated one acre of land and lumber for floors. Charles Shrubsole 15,000 brick, others donated lumber, timber and posts for the fence, and about 46 cash contributions, the highest of which was \$120.

Construction was begun in 1863, the cornerstone being laid in June. The church was built in the old English Gothic style.

Rev. Mr. Brookman did not remain here long as incumbent. He left in 1863 to become secretary of the Western Ontario Bible Society. All the churches of the Anglican communion in this area owe much to his untiring zeal and genius for organization. He was succeeded

as incumbent by Rev. Samuel Belcher, who came with his wife and family from India, where he had been engaged in missionary work. He lived in Thamesford.

At the first vestry meeting held in Lakeside on April 2 of that year Robert Armstrong was appointed minister's warden and H. Sharp, people's warden. A delegate to the synod, H. Cragg, was appointed the following year. Pew rents were collected and were as high as \$154. Mr. Belcher was also an active and energetic pastor and under his leadership the congregation soon succeeded in writing off the greater portion of their heavy indebtedness. Mr. Belcher resigned in 1870 to become rector of Pt. St. Charles, Montreal, where he was later made a canon of Christ Church Cathedral.

In 1870 the Rev. Wm. Daunt came to Thamesford with its associated churches of Lakeside, Thorndale and Evelyn. An inspiring speaker, his 10 years incumbency was a most successful one. Over roads that were sometimes well nigh impassable, he made his rounds faithfully and well. In 1880 the parish was divided and Mr. Daunt moved to Thorndale.

Then came to Lakeside a rector much admired and respected by all, Rev. William Minter Seaborn. His successful ministry was rather brief as in 1883 he accepted a call to St. Matthews

Church, London. Rolf Seaborn, lay reader at Pelee Island was invited by the wardens to accept the charge left vacant by his father. In 1884 Samuel Towle was appointed Sunday school superintendent, an office he discharged with credit to himself and honor to the church until his death in 1892 when a committee was appointed at the following vestry meeting with instructions to place a fitting memorial in the church to his memory.

Mr. Seaborn proved to be an earnest and sincere pastor and placed much emphasis on parochial missions. Through his efforts, many leaders were brought to the parish, among them Rev. Mr. Dalome, a noted evangelist.

Mr. Seaborn was followed in the parish by Rev. T. H. Brown, a graduate of Magdalen College, Oxford, who procured a new register for births, marriages, deaths, confirmations and baptisms. A man of great energy and enthusiasm, he left in 1892 to become rector of Christ Church, Delaware.

He was succeeded by Rev. Wm. Stout. In 1894 Rev. V. A. Bloodworth came to Thamesford and Lakeside and the church was repainted and repairs made to the shed. In November, 1899, he was succeeded by Rev. T. G. A. Wright, B.A.

A new rectory at that time was planned at Thamesford and a sketch was sent to the Lakeside vestry for approval.

In 1903 Lakeside and Thamesford were divided and Rev. D. E. Cameron was placed in charge of the Lakeside parish. He was not an ordained man and at the time of his arrival was pursuing his studies at Huron College. He was a man with great organizing ability and during his pastorate in Lakeside the present rectory was constructed. His successor was Rev. W. H. Moore who left in 1909 shortly after receiving his deacon's orders. To Christ Church then came Rev. J. W. Jones, who, with a true gift for organization, gathered the ladies of the congregation together and formed the Ladies' Parish Aid in 1910. Mrs. F. G. Seaton was elected president; Mrs. Wm. Kirk, vice-president; Mrs. H. C. Gleason, secretary, and Miss C. McKonkey, treasurer. The name was later changed to Ladies' Guild.

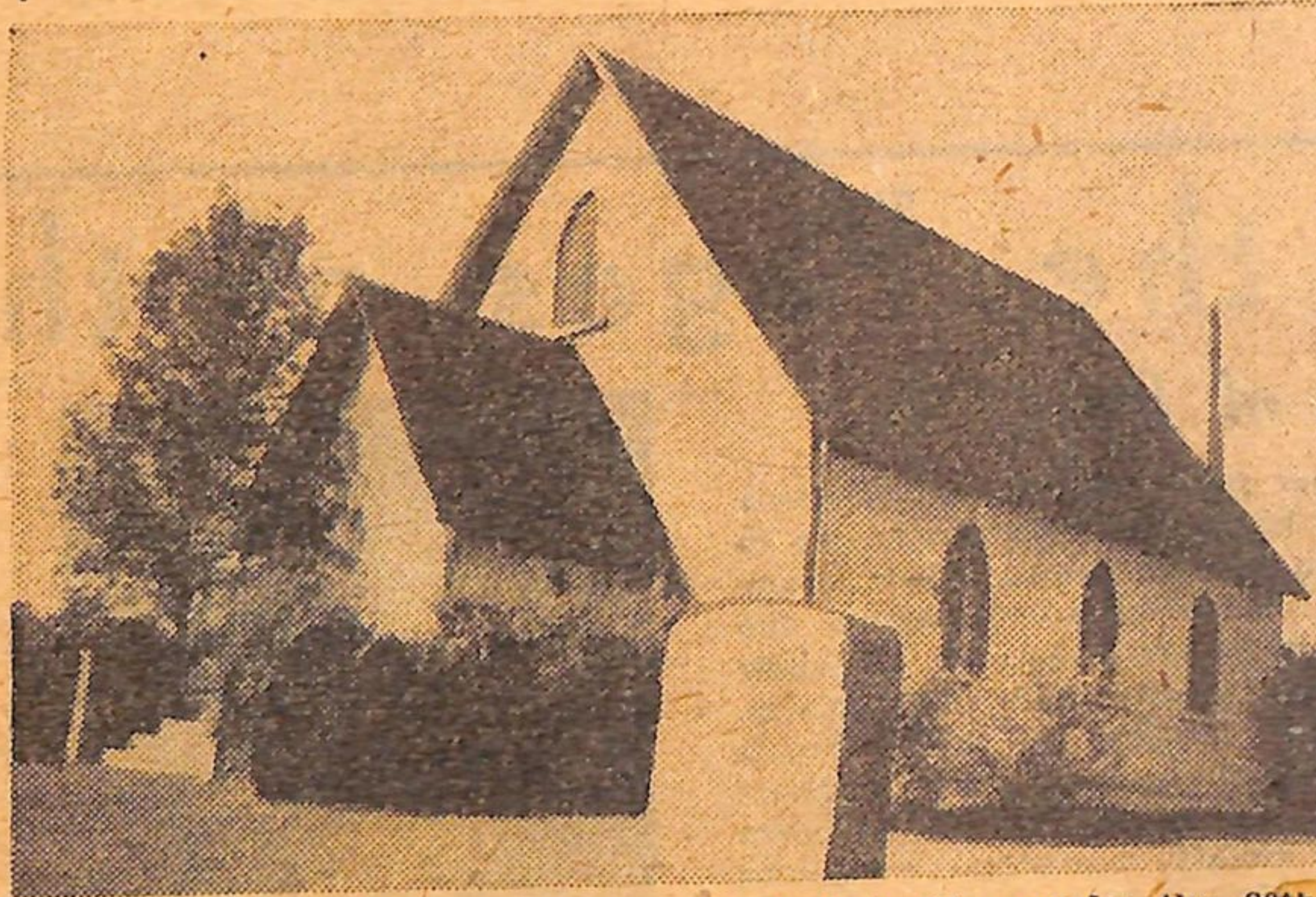
From the time Mr. Jones left, the parish in 1911 until 1913, Rev. W. A. Shipway was pastor. Mr. Shipway left the parish in 1913 to enter the American Episcopal Church and was followed by Rev. J. H. McLeod. Mr. McLeod retired to London in 1915 after being bereaved by the death of Mrs. McLeod.

Then came Rev. G. T. Goodhand to Lakeside. In 1916 he organized the A.Y.P.A. This organization served successfully for several years. During the war years, boxes were sent to those from this community who were serving with the forces and a tablet was placed in the church to members who had seen service. The names on the tablet are: Capt. J. G. Seaton, Capt. H. L. Mitchell, Sig. G. W. Dawes, Cpl. D. Q. Calvert, Pte. H. A. Ridley, Pte. A. L. Baker, Pte. G. Kirk, Pte. W. S. McCorquodale, Sig. J. E. Coulson, Gnr. C. B. Mitchell, AS. Wm. T. Old.

From 1917 until 1920 Rev. F. G. Rickard had charge of the parish when it was again joined with Thamesford and then followed Rev. W. D. Davis, L.Th., 1920-1925; Rev. H. J. Johnson, M.A., 1925-1932; Rev. R. S. Skinner, 1932-1936; Rev. J. D. Gilmore, B.A., L.Th., 1936-1938. The present pastor is Rev. S. Semple.

Such is the record of 80 years of service in the community. Until about 20 years ago, the Sunday school had an important part in the church. Mr. William Mills followed Samuel Towle as superintendent, a position he filled until his death in 1900. Mr. Charles N. Mitchell succeeded him and served with sincerity and devotion until the Sunday school was closed.

## Marks 80th Anniversary



Tomorrow Christ Church (Anglican) at Lakeside, marks the 80th anniversary of its building. It was one of the early churches of East Nissouri Township.