

# Stone Art Area Heritage

Free Press Stratford Bureau

HARRINGTON, Dec. 18 — A tiny stone chapel which stands in the centre of a small cemetery on the boundary between West Zorra and East Nissouri townships was erected about 1925 to mark the spot where the old Town Line Methodist Church once stood.

But while the chapel officially marks the old church site most of the people in this area like to think of it as a monument to the men of a fast disappearing art — stone masons.

It was stone masons who built the little chapel and stone masons built the scores of picturesque homes whose colorful stones decorate the undulating land of this section of Perth and Oxford counties.

The Town Line Methodist Church, a red brick building which was erected in 1861 on the West Zorra side of the boundary between the two townships, was torn down shortly after church union came into being in the early 1920's. Church members joined with other district congregations to form Lakeside United Church.

The small stone chapel is on the spot where the front door of the church once stood. The old cemetery which surrounded the church is maintained under sponsorship of descendants of pioneers whose family burial plots are there.

The vari-colored field stones from this area were built into

solid stone houses with walls never less than two feet thick, some up to four feet thick. The only imported stonework was a few quarried pieces from St. Marys used for window or door sills. The St. Marys quarry, where the sills originated is now an outdoor swimming pool.

Roy Sutherland, of RR 2, Lakeside, has one of the century-old stone homes in East Nissouri Township. It was built by stone mason Angus Shaw to accommodate his family of 12 children, so naturally it is a bit larger than some others in the area.

Mr. Shaw moved to Oregon and there built an exact replica of his East Nissouri home.

Within recent years one of his grandchildren came to this district to see the house grandfather built and which formed the pattern for the Oregon home.

Mr. Sutherland believes his house is the only one in this part of Canada, and maybe in all of Canada, which has a one-stone, angle piece forming the top of his front wall gothic window.

In most homes the angle shape was formed of several stones, the spaces filled with the masons' lime-sand "plaster."

When Mr. Shaw built his home he formed the window top outline from one huge stone, chipping it into proper shape.

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**MARKS CHURCH SITE**—This stone chapel, five by three feet and little under six feet high, stands in the West Zorra Town Line Cemetery, marking the spot where the Town Line Methodist Church once stood.