

Cooke's Church Serves Markdale for 75 Years

Cooke's Presbyterian Church, Markdale, was opened and dedicated for services on December, 1862. Coupled with the diamond jubilee celebrated last autumn was the 75th anniversary of the opening of Knox Presbyterian Church, Orange Valley, of which Cooke's is the continuation. The history of Cooke's Presbyterian Church dates back to the early fifties of the past century, when the first settlers, filled with high hope and indomitable courage, hewed from the virgin forest homes for themselves and their children. Despite the toil and loneliness, the disappointments and poverty of those first hard years, they did not forget God, and many longed for a place in which to worship.

Samuel Rainey, a deeply religious north-of-Ireland Presbyterian, offered his home for services, and the people came, glad of the opportunity of meeting together, singing the Psalms and pouring out their hearts in prayer to God.

A few years later in 1859 Orange Valley Presbyterian congregation was organized. A log school having been built, services were held in the building. Rev. Charles Cameron was the first settled minister, and the records show that his charge included Rocky Saugeen, Durham, Priceville, Durham Road and Orange Valley. This school was midway between what are now Flesherston and Markdale. The minister rode horseback, often remaining at the homes over night and visiting among the settlers for a few days, teaching the children and giving hope and courage to any downcast.

Toward the close of Rev. C. Cameron's ministry, Knox Church was built, an acre of land for the site and cemetery having been secured on the west side of the Toronto and Sydenham Road, now Highway No. 10, 1 1/2 miles south of Markdale. Andrew Kay, a good carpenter in the settlement, was given the contract. All members helped gladly, according to their means, some giving money, some material and others labor. Many bees were held. Logs were hauled to the sawmill at Barrhead, where an upright saw, driven by an overshot water-wheel, reduced them to lumber. Building continued during the late summer, all who had time from home duties helping. At length it was completed and the opening and dedication services, held on December 30, 1867, were largely attended, the people coming in sleighs, on horseback, or on foot, some of them from a distance of eight or ten miles. It was a glad and memorable occasion.

The church was a fair-sized frame building with arched windows, the exterior covered with ship-lapped siding and the pews and all interior finished in clear white pine. There were two enclosed pulpits, the higher one for the minister and the lower one for the precentor, or leader of the singing. Both pulpits were upholstered in crimson and trimmed with heavy fringe and tassels.

Part of the equipment of the church was the black collection boxes. These were of wood, about seven inches by four, with a sliding bottom and were fastened to the end of a rod some 2 1/2 feet in length, for reaching into the pews. Coppers and big pennies, of which there were many, dropped in with a thud, audible all over the church.

The first precentor was James Waldie, an uncle of W. R. Burnett. After his death, H. C. Ross, who had a store in the village, led the singing and later Archibald Cairns, who used a tuning-fork to pitch the Psalm tunes. Mr. Cairns preferred a front pew to the precentor's pulpit.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was, in those days, observed with a season of service, beginning on Monday. The men were not too busy even in haying or harvest to attend these afternoon services. From time to time the elders visited the homes and before going on their

way they would hear the children repeat, from memory, Scripture verses and portions of the Shorter Catechism.

This was the time before buggies and democrats were used, so the heavy farm wagon was the usual means of conveyance in summer and the sleigh in winter brought the whole family to church. Knox had a large shed built to accommodate the horses. The first families to use a democrat or buggy or later a covered buggy were looked upon by the others as being very stylish or conceited. Others rode horseback or walked if they lived not too far away. It was quite common for the children to come with their bare feet and the men in their shirt sleeves.

After a time difficulties developed between this church and others of the charge and in 1871 Knox withdrew from connection with the charge and obtained, for a short time, a supply from Holland. At the time of withdrawal there were 64 certified members on the church roll. The pastorate extended from Allen's hill, now Mount Pleasant, on the north, to several miles below and west of Flesherston and east to the Beaver River Valley.

For some time following the ministry of Rev. Mr. Cameron, students from Knox College supplied during the summer months. Then Rev. R. McAlmon was called to the charge and a house in the village was rented for a manse. In 1876 a substantial brick manse was built.

During the years Cornabus, now Markdale, had increased from a hamlet to a small village, and as very few of the residents who attended Knox had any means of conveyance, they placed before the congregation a request that the services should sometimes be held in the village. In 1875 it was decided to hold the services alternately in the church and in the village, the Orange Hall there having been secured for the purpose. Later Dufferin Hall, on the property now occupied by E. White, was engaged.

This arrangement continued until January 1, 1881, when, after much discussion and deliberation, the church was closed and regular services were held in the village. The late William Brown was foremost in advocating these changes, which were not accomplished without difficulty and soreness of heart among many of those who had assisted materially in building and supporting the church, but who had not as yet caught the vision of extension to meet the needs of the growing village on either side. The members from Flesherston and vicinity soon afterward organized and held services in Artemesia Township Hall, in their own village.

From this time on Knox Church was used only for funeral services. In 1896 it was mysteriously burned, supposed to have been through the carelessness of tramps, who sometimes found it a quiet sleeping place.

Upon Rev. R. McAlmon's retirement the pulpit was again supplied by students. Rev. Andrew Wilson, who was then attending Knox College, began supplying in 1879 and two years later, having graduated, he became the settled minister. His charge, under Orangeville Presbyterian, consisted of the Markdale and Flesherston churches.

The present brick Presbyterian Church in Markdale was built in 1882 and was named after Rev. Dr. Cooke, an eminent Presbyterian Minister of Belfast, Ireland. The early settlers were for the most part Scottish and north-of-Ireland Irish of Scottish descent and the name of the new church was suggested by former members of Cooke's congregation.

Rev. A. Wilson resigned in 1888. He was followed by Rev. L. C. Emes. After the close of Mr. Emes' ministry, the charge was vacant for some time. During that time Markdale church was transferred from Orangeville to Owen Sound Presbytery

Present Minister



PAUL RUMBALL, formerly a missionary in Japan, who is the present minister of Cooke's Church and at the same time is completing his theological course at Knox College, Toronto.

and was associated with Berkeley. Rev. William Forest, a retired minister, accepted the charge. Under his deeply spiritual leadership, followed by the vigorous pastorate of Rev. John Hunter, the church took on new life and many new members were received. In June of 1904, Rev. Mr. Hunter resigned and went to Scotland on a visit. He accepted a charge there and Mrs. Hunter and family followed him in the autumn. In November of that year Rev. A. W. Shepherd was called as minister, to be followed in 1910 by Rev. R. M. Pheasant, whose death on June 16, 1916, was a great sorrow to the congregation. Interment took place in Markdale Cemetery.

Towards the end of the year, Rev. J. Thorburn-Cann was inducted into the charge. Under his capable pastorate of six years the church prospered in all branches of its work. As an example the contributions towards the Forward Movement amounted to about \$2500. In 1922 he resigned to accept a charge at Chateaugay near Montreal. His death occurred in Peterboro about three years ago. He was succeeded by Rev. Dr. E. H. Gray. During his pastorate the church voted in 1925 into Church Union and became part of the United Church of Canada. The Berkeley congregation now withdrew from Cooke's, so Markdale was not connected with any outside church. In 1926 Dr. Gray resigned to accept a charge near Toronto. He is at present a minister in Eastern Ontario.

Rev. Wm. Coutts was then appointed by the Toronto Conference of the United Church of Canada to Cooke's Church. Having only the one church, Mr. Coutts was able to devote more time to it, with the result that the church had four successful years. He received a call to Stayner and is now at Chippawa near Jubilee Presbyterian Church in Niagara Falls. In the summer of 1930 at the close of Mr. Coutts' pastorate a number of the congregation thought it would be wise to unite with Annesley United Church in the village and have only one United Church in Markdale. Accordingly about fifty members left the congregation and the remaining hundred decided to revert to the Presbyterian church under the Presbytery of Orangeville. After certain deliberations they were given legal ownership of the church and bought the manse back.

In December 1930 the congregation called Rev. T. O. Miller. Cooke's Church was now joined with the Presbyterian Church in Flesherston where service was held on Sunday afternoons. After serving the congregation faithfully till October of 1937, he resigned and moved to Orangeville where he still lives and acts as clerk of the Presbytery.

The following spring Rev. J. E. Taylor was appointed to the charge. Markdale was now joined with Priceville and Swinton Park to form a new charge and this arrangement has been continued. In December 1939 Mr. Taylor received a call to Ethel and Cranbrook and resigned. Students supplied until September 1940 when Rev. Dr. H. R. Campbell was called by the congregations. He lived at Priceville and by his enthusiasm and leadership imparted new vigour into the church. During his pastorate extensive repairs were made to the church as shingling and the complete re-decoration of the interior. Dr. Campbell resigned in December 1941 and the following spring Mr. Paul Rumball was appointed to the charge. Mr. and Mrs. Rumball were missionaries in Japan until the strained conditions forced them to leave in April 1941. Besides ministering to the three congregations, Mr. Rumball is completing his theological course at Knox College in Toronto. Under his guidance the church is making pro-

gress in all branches of its work and looks to the future with hope and confidence.

Mention should be made of some of those hardy and resolute pioneers who, despite conditions that would discourage and overwhelm men today, established Christian homes and were active in the work of the church.

In the eldership are found the names of Frances Beattie, Isaac Brown, Shepherd Boyce and Samuel Donnelly, Henry Wilson, George Richardson, Andrew L. Walker, F. J. Ritchie, S. A. Morrison, Angus Plewes, John Sutherland, Willard Wilson, K. S. Gemmel, W. J. Messenger, H. Breadner, D. Symes, R. Alcox. On the managing board were Archibald Cairns, George McKenzie, William Brown, Henry Meldrum, William Cunningham, William Burnett, Alexander Stewart, Robert Brown, John McKee, William Blair, William Ritchie, T. H. Wilson, Dr. L. G. Campbell, Hugh Knott and many others that space will not permit. The women, too, did their part, teaching in the Sunday School, visiting and nursing the sick and providing for the church socials.

Superintendents of the Sunday School at Knox were William Burnett and William Cunningham. When the services were changed to Markdale, William Brown became Sunday School superintendent for some years. All of these have long since passed on to their reward.

A few years after the opening of Cooke's Church, an organ was purchased for use in leading the singing, although there were some who had misgivings as to the propriety of using an instrument in the service of praise. Some of the organists during the years were Miss Christena Wilson, daughter of the minister, Miss Annie Anderson, T. L. Moffat, Miss Minnie McNally, Miss Violet McDuff, Miss Mabel Plewes, Miss Ina Smith and Miss Eva Burnett. For many years Mrs. Dr. A. M. Brown was choir leader and took an active interest in the work of the church.

Among Sunday School superintendents during those years were J. K. Moffat, J. M. Cunningham, John Chard, Angus Plewes, F. J. Ritchie and W. J. Messenger.

Grey County Home Services—First Half of 1943

Services at 7.30 p.m.

April 2nd: Rev. Caswell
April 16: Mr. Rumball

United Church of Canada Kimberley Circuit

W. R. Enchaman, Pastor

11 a.m.—Epping.
2.30 p.m.—New England
5.00 p.m.—Kimberley.

TENDERS WANTED

Tenders will be received up to April 1st for power to run township crusher for crushing of approximately 1500 yards of stone at price per hour for actual time crushing. Contractor is to move all machinery, including bin. To be at least 18-horse steam engine or at least 35 horse tractor. Also to furnish 2 men, team, wagon, belt, fuel, oil and grease. Also for hauling of same at price per yard per mile. Trucks to carry public liability.

Lowest or no tender necessarily accepted.

EDWARD LANKTREE,
Clerk, Township of Euphrasia
Meaford, Ont., R. R. 4

Small Ads.

25c for 25 words if paid week of insertion; otherwise 35c up to 25 words. Over 25 words, 1c per word or figure. Replies directed to this office, 15c extra.

TO RENT—Large front bedroom; board optional. Mrs. J. W. Elliott, Markdale. Phone 70. 29c

FOR SALE—Two purebred Angus bull calves; colt rising 3 years old. S. Dennett, R. R. 6, Markdale. 29p

FOR SALE—Ten ewes coming in about the end of March. Mrs. Jas. Murphy, R. R. 1, Markdale. Phone 74 r 3-4. 29c

FOR SALE—Purebred Tamworth hog, 5 months old. D. J. Bradley, R. R. 1, Berkeley. Phone Markdale 73 r 2-1. 29c

CANADA NEEDS FATS & BONES FOR HIGH EXPLOSIVES

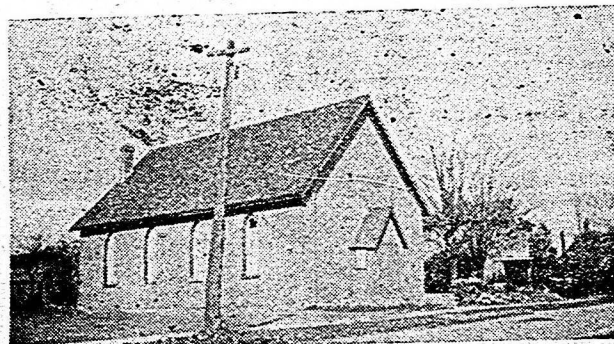
HERE IS A DAY TO DAY
WAR JOB FOR YOU!

SAVE ALL YOUR WASTE FATS AND BONES

- 1 You can take your fat drippings, scrap fat and bones to your meat dealer. He will pay you the established price for the dripping and the scrap fat. If you wish, you can turn this money over to your local Voluntary Salvage Committee or Registered Local War Charity, or—
- 2 You can donate your fat dripping, scrap fat and bones to your local Voluntary Salvage Committee if they collect them in your community, or—
- 3 You can continue to place out your Fats and Bones for collection by your Street Cleaning Department where such a system is in effect.

Department of National War Services
NATIONAL SALVAGE DIVISION

Present Presbyterian Church in Markdale 1



Cooke's Presbyterian Church, Markdale, was erected in 1882 and named after the Rev. Dr. Cooke, an eminent Presbyterian minister of Belfast, Ireland, by former members of his congregation, who pioneered in Grey Co. To-day, after 60 years' worship in this building, the congregation is in good standing and looks to the future with confidence.

150,000 RAILWAY WORKERS REPORT TO CANADA AT WAR!

Last year, we hauled 150 million tons of materials, foods and munitions... double the pre-war traffic.

We carried Twenty Million NEW passengers... fighting men and war workers.

We built tanks, guns, shells, ships.

Twenty-two thousand of us were with the armed forces of our country.

Now, we are busier than ever providing the mass transportation that only the railways can furnish.

The country depends upon us to do this job. We must move the troops. We must handle freight. And, with your cooperation, it will be done.

IF POSSIBLE AVOID TRAVEL OVER WEEK-ENDS AND HOLIDAYS

CANADIAN
PACIFIC

CANADIAN
NATIONAL

CARRYING THE LOAD IN WAR AND PEACE