

# Union Presbyterian

Continued from page A4

the community and the church, remembers Mrs. MacDonald. She and her husband Clarence live next door to the church.

"She was a very gracious lady," Mrs. Anderson said. "And she was a very good cook. She always brought tarts and baking when she visited."

A number of the children's books published by Miss Montgomery were written while the couple lived in Terra Cotta, Mrs. Anderson said.

Involved with her husband's work, Mrs. MacDonald set up a drama club at the church from the Young People's Guild, a project that succeeded so well financially that they were able to provide the school room with electric fixtures and a piano and recover the cushions of the pews in the church auditorium.

It was during Rev. MacDonald's ministry that Union Presbyterian celebrated 100 years of service to the community.

**TOTAL COST**  
The 1932 centennial was celebrated by installing electric lights and decorating the church edifice, at a total cost of \$1,689.82. As well, a booklet was published outlining the early history of the congregation, beginning in 1833 when records listed charter members.

Before 1833, there were no public religious services held in the community, with worship being limited to homes of pioneers. Settlers from Ireland, Scotland, England and the U.S. came to the Esqueving and Chinguacousy townships and built their log cabins in what was then forest.

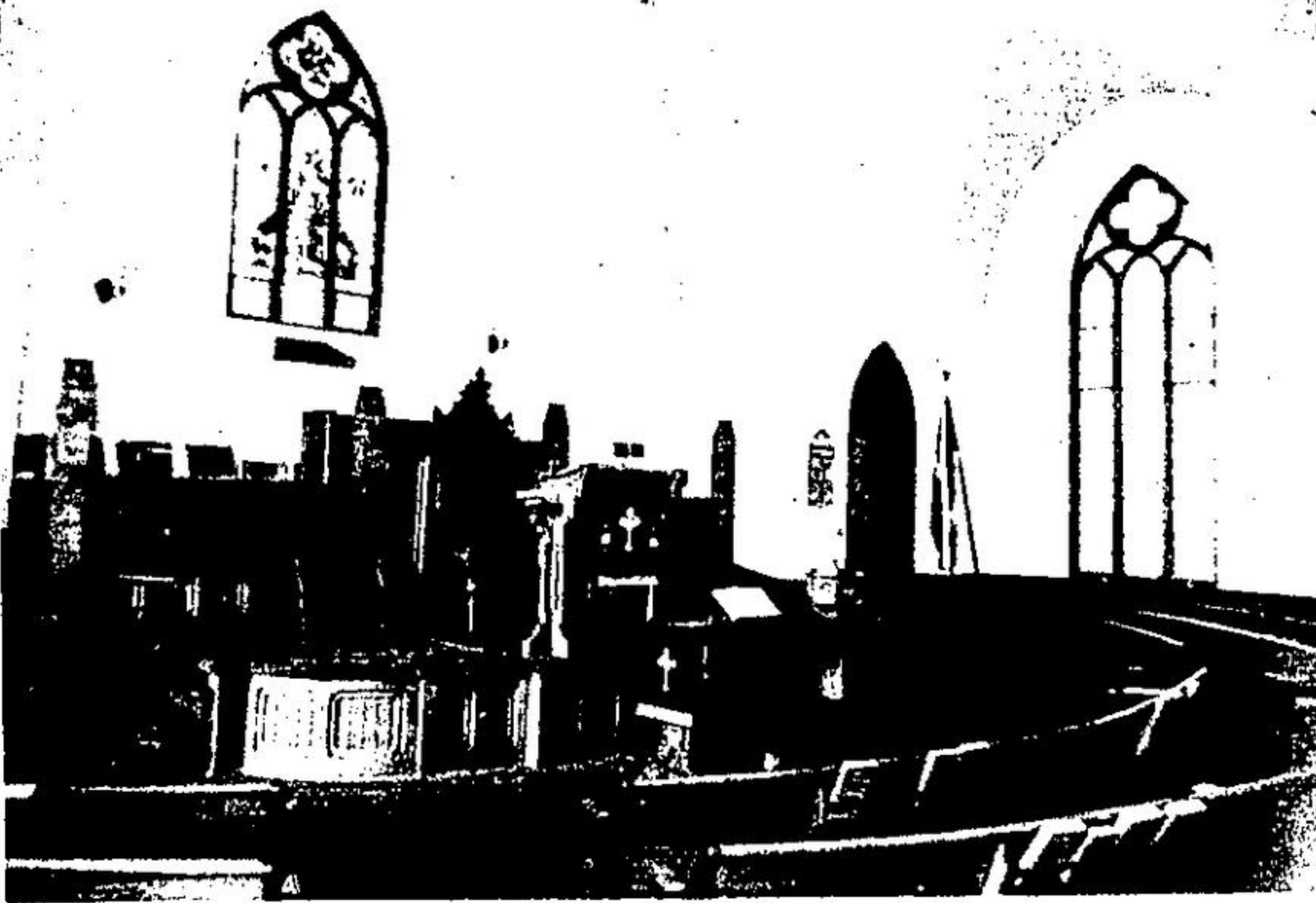
In those days, going to church meant trudging ten or more miles along a forest path to get to what was called Boston Church.

Some of these colonizers were former soldiers in the Peninsular Army of the Duke of Wellington. They migrated to Upper Canada after the Battle of Waterloo.

Apparently there were two local congregations of Presbyterian lineage established originally, one a Free Church and one a Church of Scotland. After a time, a "union" came about between the two groups in the 1830s, giving the present church its name.

**FULL-TIME**  
Until a full-time preacher was summoned, students from Knox Presbyterian Seminary in Toronto, who travelled the large Presbytery of Toronto circuit, came out to preach on the Sabbath to the Union congregation.

By 1845, Union was able to call its first minister, the Rev. Patrick Gray, an Irishman who also ministered to the Normal Presbyterian and Boston Church until 1850.



White paint and blue trim give the Union Presbyterian Church interior a clean, neat look. The pews curve circularly about the front altar, ornate with black wrought iron at the ends and padded with burgundy cushions. A memorial window behind the altar reminds the congregation of Fred and Agnes Thompson, long-time members of the church. (Herald photo)

Initially meeting for worship in the house and barn of James Fraser, the early congregation built in 1835 a log building for worship. This was followed with a frame church built in 1848. Then, in 1864, the present-day stone building was erected.

In the early days there were no choir or organ. The service of praise was led by a preacher or who took up his position in front of the pulpit. As he started to tune, the whole congregation would begin to sing.

**PUMP ORGAN**  
By 1879, a pump organ had been installed and a choir organized. Marguerite Davison is currently organist with the church and she's been doing her job for 50 years now, using, since 1963 a new electric organ which replaced the original one.

Although Congregational, Presbyterian and Methodist churches around the country were joining forces to become the United Church of Canada in 1925, Union Presbyterian's congregation resisted the move.

"Although my family voted to join the United Church, we stayed with Union Presbyterian when the congregation voted against joining up," Mrs. Anderson said. "The church only lost about two families at the time of union."

Union was strong in holding on to its membership because it was very much a community church. Its members could trace their ancestry far back with the history of the development of the farming area.

To this day, the old pioneer families still have descendants in the area who attend Union Presbyterian regularly on the Sabbath.

"My grandson is the seventh generation of Leslies to go to church. His mother's great great grandfather used to belong to this church," Mrs. Young said.

She said because so many generations have continued attending the same church, many church members have pews they consider their own. However, Mrs. Young said if a stranger takes it over, a welcome is extended to them and the pew willingly shared.

With wrought black iron on each end, the wooden pews sit circularly about the altar, padded with burgundy cushions.

Although the majority of the current 110 members have been so for years, there are also lots of new members. "They're very dynamic and not above rolling up their sleeves and doing the work that needs to be done," commented Mrs. Young. "I think we're a pretty good bunch."

## Jehovah's Witnesses' session attracts 1,200

**Herald Special**  
Over 1,200 area residents assembled last weekend for the Jehovah's Witnesses' semi-annual circuit convention in Norval. The two-day session featured a series of scripturally based discourses on the theme, "Blameless as Light-bearers Amid a Twisted Generation."

Each of the speakers stressed both the practical value of Biblical counsel in dealing with the complexities of modern living and the Christian's obligation to listen to and apply this counsel in his daily life.

The convention climaxed Sunday afternoon with the discourse, "Surviving a Gen-

eration of Darkness". Arthur Powley, District overseer for the Witnesses in southern Ontario, explained from the scriptures why God will soon bring an end to the present system of things and bring in a new order.

"Although many view this as an age of enlightenment with progress being made in many fields, the facts show this to be a generation of darkness," commented Mr. Powley. "Spiritually, we're at our lowest ebb and are suffering the results of ignoring God's laws."

Those in attendance followed Mr. Powley closely as he read a series of scriptures showing how they can ensure their

survival into God's new system. The convention ended with plans to assemble again this summer in Campbellville for the Witnesses' annual district convention.



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### DEATHS

**SIMPSON**, Annie Augusta—Suddenly on Sunday morning at Woodstock, formerly of Georgetown in her 94th year. Beloved wife of the late Clair Simpson, loving mother and mother-in-law of Louise Draper, Georgetown, Isabel and Dennis Hardisty of Mt. Elgin, Bill and Ruth Simpson, Rexdale and the late Reginald, Frank and Thelma Simpson and Ed Draper. Sadly missed by her 9 grandchildren, 12 great grandchildren and 1 great great grandson. Dear sister of Florence and the late Bertha, Ida and Louis. Resting at the Simes Funeral Parlour in Grand Valley from 2 p.m. Tuesday, Funeral service 2 p.m. Wednesday. 08825d

**PRESTON**, Herbert Sr.—Suddenly on Friday, January 29, 1982 at Halton Hills, Herbert Preston Sr. of Glen Williams in his 78th year. Beloved husband of Marie Thornton and dear father of Herb Jr., Keith, Betty-Anne (Mrs. John Bows) and the late Robert Preston. Also lovingly remembered by his six grandchildren, and two great grandchildren. Rested at the McClure-Jones Funeral Home, funeral service was held February 1, 1982 from St. Albans Anglican Church, Glen Williams. Interment Glen Williams Cemetery. In memory contributions to the Ontario Heart Foundation or the Georgetown District Memorial Hospital Foundation would be appreciated. 09335dn

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