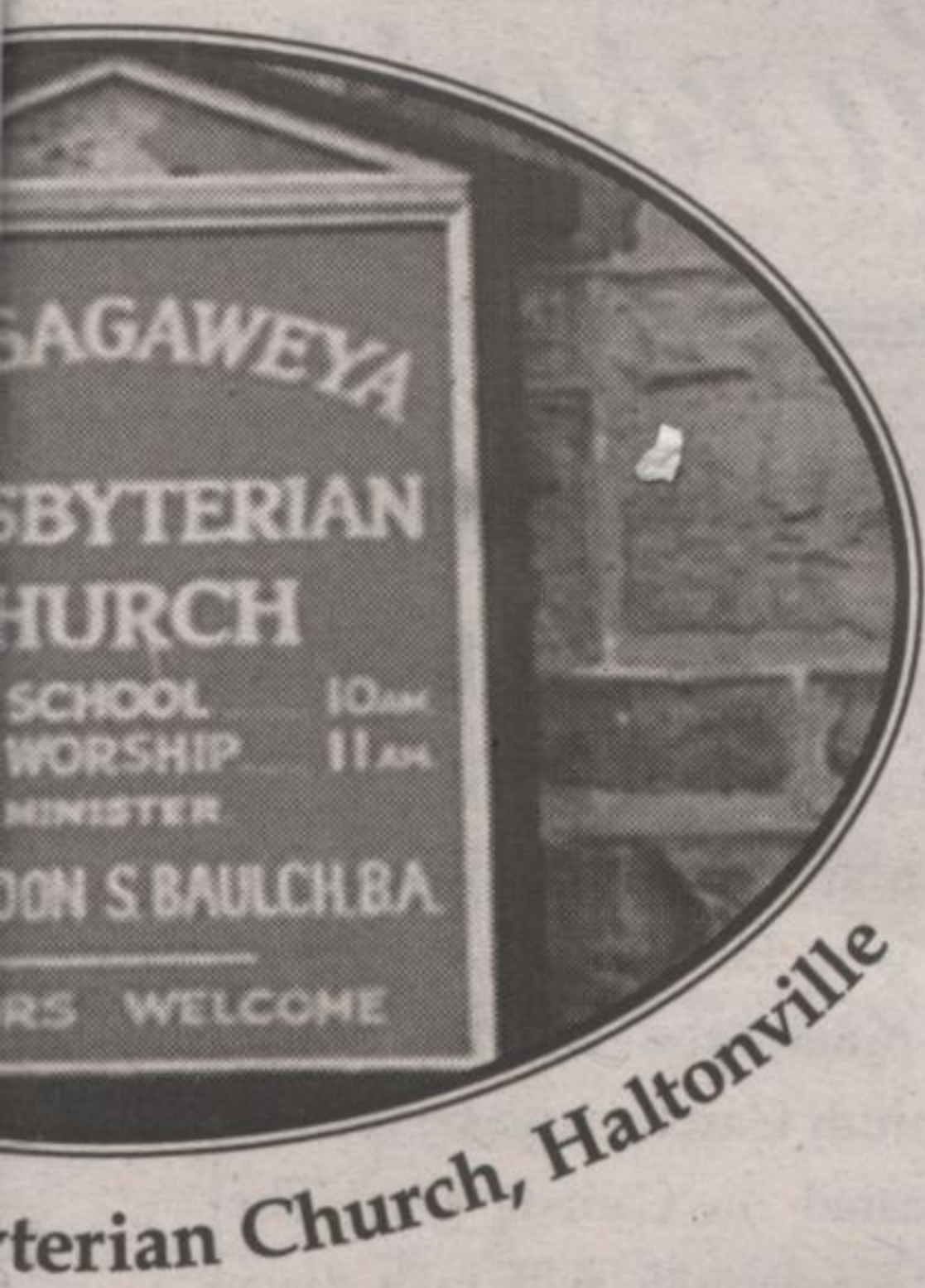


# Memories

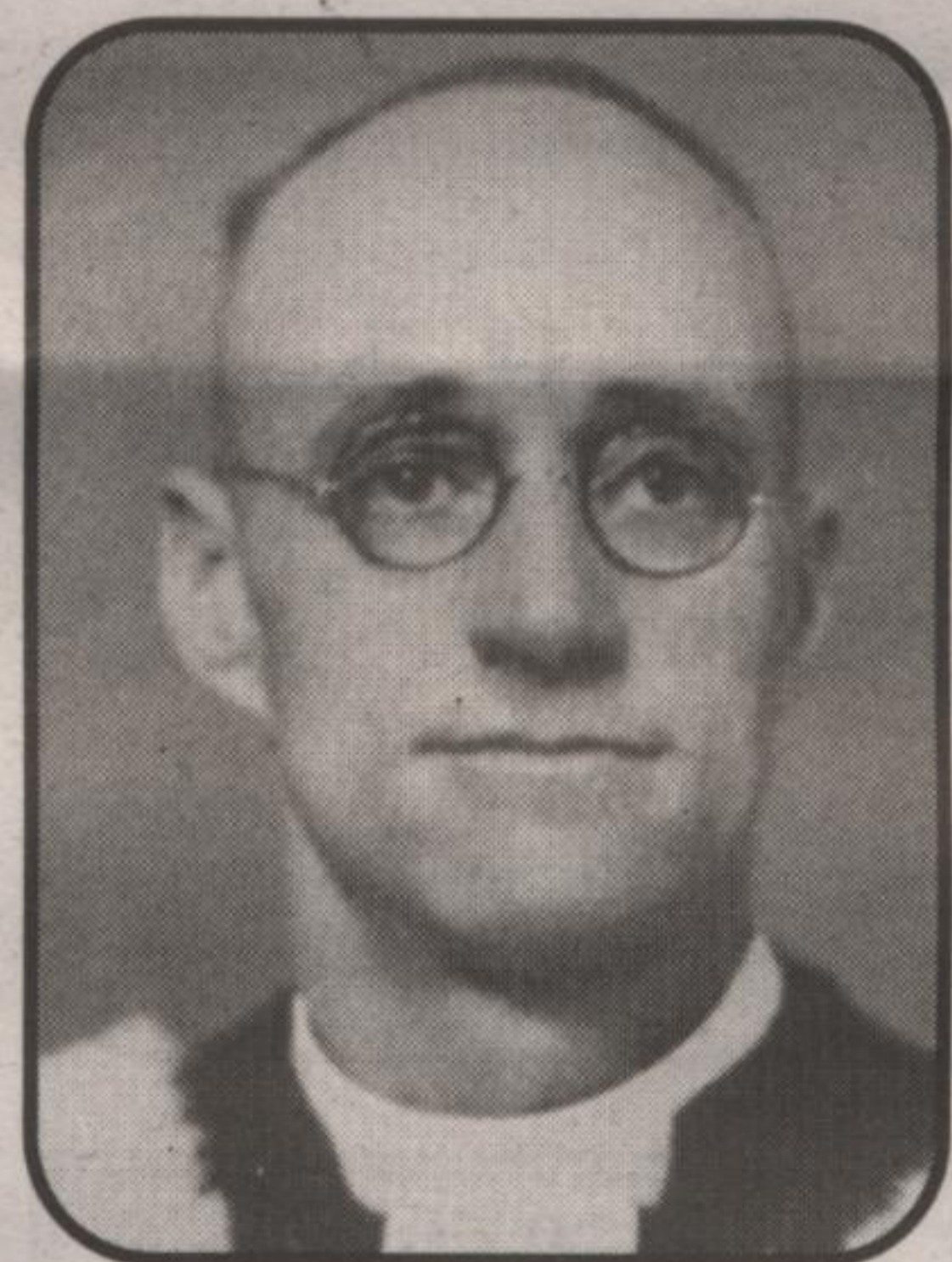


Back L to R: Kate Campbell, Bernice Robinson, Ida Henderson, Mrs. Edwards, Mrs. Pringle. Front L to R: Mrs. Kennedy, Velma Norris, Mrs. Roberts, and Verna Mullen.

The Presbyterian Charge of Nassagaweya. Nassagaweya Presbyterian Church recently celebrated its 165th Anniversary. The members share a great pride in belonging to a church that has been in existence for so many years. The church that stood on a line between the farms of John and Robert Hutcheon, Lots 14 and 15 in the 3rd Concession (Guelph line), the congregation was under the supervision of the minister at Boston church in Esquesing. He made his trips to Nassagaweya in 1861 nearly on the site of the frame one. Dugald McNair who had come to Nassagaweya with the McPhedran family (15th Sideroad north side, east of Guelph Line). In drawing up the contract for the building of the stone church it was agreed to pay in three installments, the last to be on or before March 15th, 1862. Robert Lamb and Wm. McLaughlin did not remain to mark a once prosperous village. A store, gas station, a large soldiers monument and few of the original buildings remain in Canada. The Bible was the chief source of reading and inspiration. Those same kind of people settled Nassagaweya, many gross errors in some of the fundamental teachings of the church and that Sabbath desecration was common. The church was exposed to deadly error both in faith and practice, which they saw everywhere around them. The schoolroom was built in 1862. The members in attendance and the collection was one shilling, ten pence. Rev. Duncan McMillan, one of several supply ministers who were there that he visited Nassagaweya Church. In November of 1839, there arrived in Canada the Rev. William Puslinch and Nassagaweya. Here he laboured for 17 years, not only to these congregations but also to many others on the Guelph line. He traveled from Puslinch to Nassagaweya on horseback, dressed in white moleskin overalls, 25 buttons along each side. He resigned from his ministry in the later part of 1853. The churches of Puslinch and Nassagaweya at the time of disruption were merged. McAulay was inducted on March 5th 1854, his pastorate lasting until his death in 1864. It was during this term that he came to a charge in Hamilton. It was during this ministry in 1869 that the Campbellville congregation was organized and a new church was built. Rev. H.H. McPherson was ordained in the fall of 1876 and remained six years, going to Halifax for 10 years. Rev. Archibald Blair assumed the pulpit of Nassagaweya on June 2nd, 1885 and for 30 years carried on successfully. He succeeded him from advancing to city pulpits. In 1895 Mrs. Blair, also deaf, organized the W.M.S. Rev. Blair resigned in 1915 and was succeeded by Rev. Frank Lawson until Nov. 1935 and Rev. John C. McNeil 1941-1946, Rev. David Nicholson 1946-1972, Rev. Douglas Lowry 1972-1976, Rev. Mary Farmery 1977-1979, Rev. David Nicholson 1979-1982. During the early years of the congregation a precentor led the singing. The precentor's box was directly in front of the pulpit. During the 1870s a movement started to purchase an organ to help lead the praise. The organ did not get into the church. The generous invention. The majority of the congregation were in favour. Two members opposed the idea; they regarded it as a hobby, heated the present church. The stoves were each connected to the chimney by a long line of tin pipes. The chimney was built to replace the stoves. A flue was built in the wall from the basement up to the west branch of the chimney flue to seat about 80 people, was built, a splendid piece of workmanship. In the early part of 1900, it was suggested that a new stone, 12 feet square to a height of 50 feet, then a spire continuing to a height of 100 feet. A doorway was to be made on the south corner of Lot 19 Con 4 was the location of the original manse. In 1904 the congregation decided to build a new church. McLeod was builder. The brick residence still stands today. This home was sold and another on the Guelph Line in 1908. St. David's church, about 1969 for the Charge of Nassagaweya and Campbellville. In 1908 many repairs and improvements were made for those that wanted to snooze. New coloured glass windows replaced plain glass with white paint stippled on them. When he looked down on his congregation his head almost swam from the giddy height. This pulpit was against the rear wall and the head and shoulders could be seen. They called it the Coward's Castle. The roof was reshingled with cedar shingles and the pulpit was seated in front of the pulpit, however the choir increased in numbers and a choir loft was built in the north corner of the church. David Henderson the project was completed. Candles lit the church when evening services were held. During the 1880s in the entrance, and one each side of the pulpit. Two bracket lamps lit the area under the gallery and one lit the choir. In 1932 the electric lights were turned on for the first time at a young people's meeting. The mode of transportation changed from the church to assist passengers. Time passed and automobiles replaced the horses. Wooden sheds had been built along the sheds were no longer required and were sold and taken away. In 1956 a small building to stand at the back of the church, hot air furnace, and replaced in 1958 with an oil-burning furnace. It is with great pride this solid stone church still stands as it day from day one. The architecture an envy to many. The Church doors are always open on Sunday mornings. This is only a brief history of this heritage church. There is so much more to tell, the families that grew up here, the members, that all took place with great remembrance. The congregation is one big family that continues to grow.



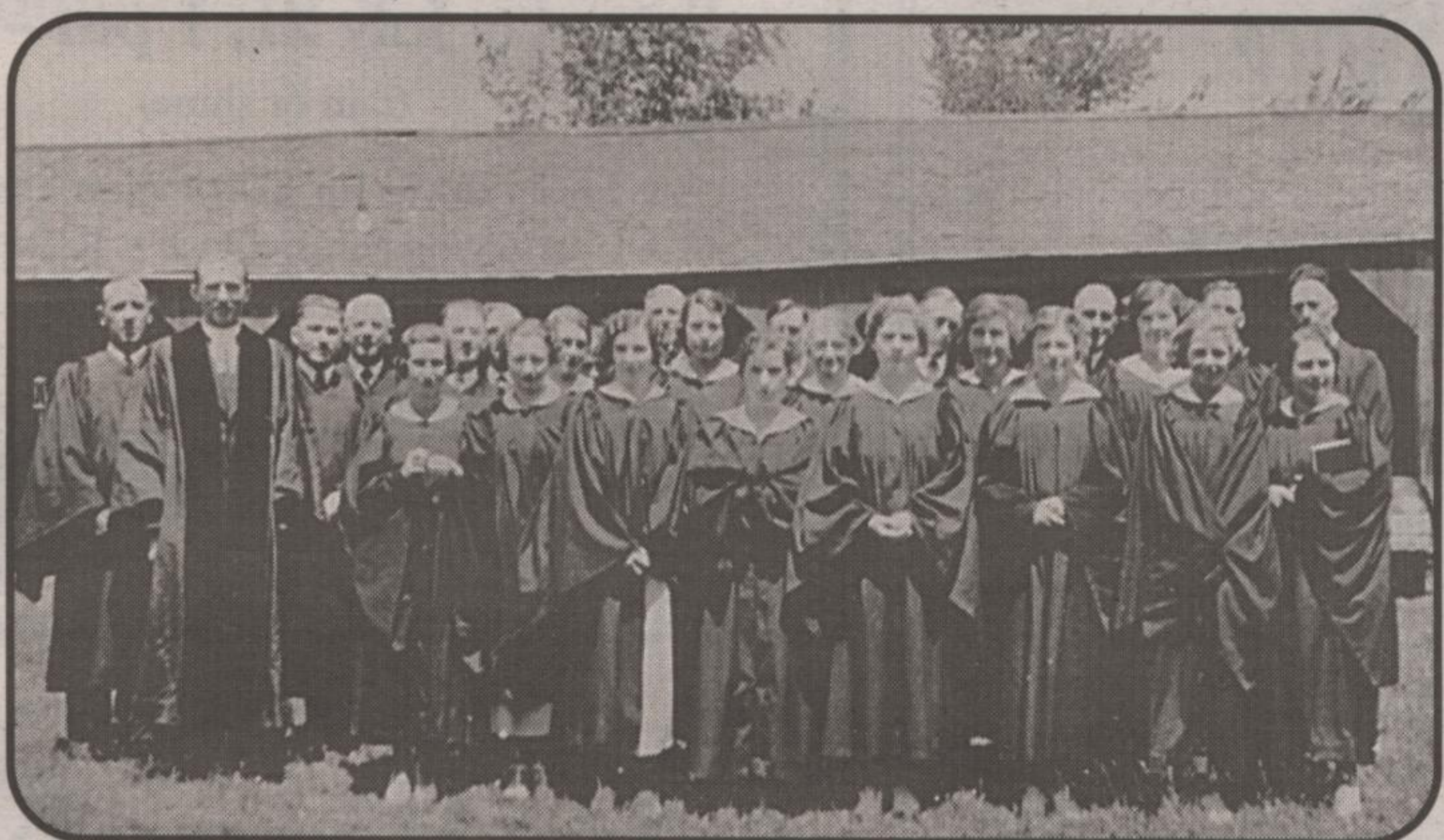
Rev. James Little  
1866-1875



Rev. C. G. Jones  
1926-1935



~ circa 1974 ~  
David Henderson, Rev. Lowry, Tom Kennedy, Stan Robinson, Wilfred Kennedy, David



Nassagaweya Presbyterian Church Choir  
~ 1936 ~  
Buggy Sheds in Background

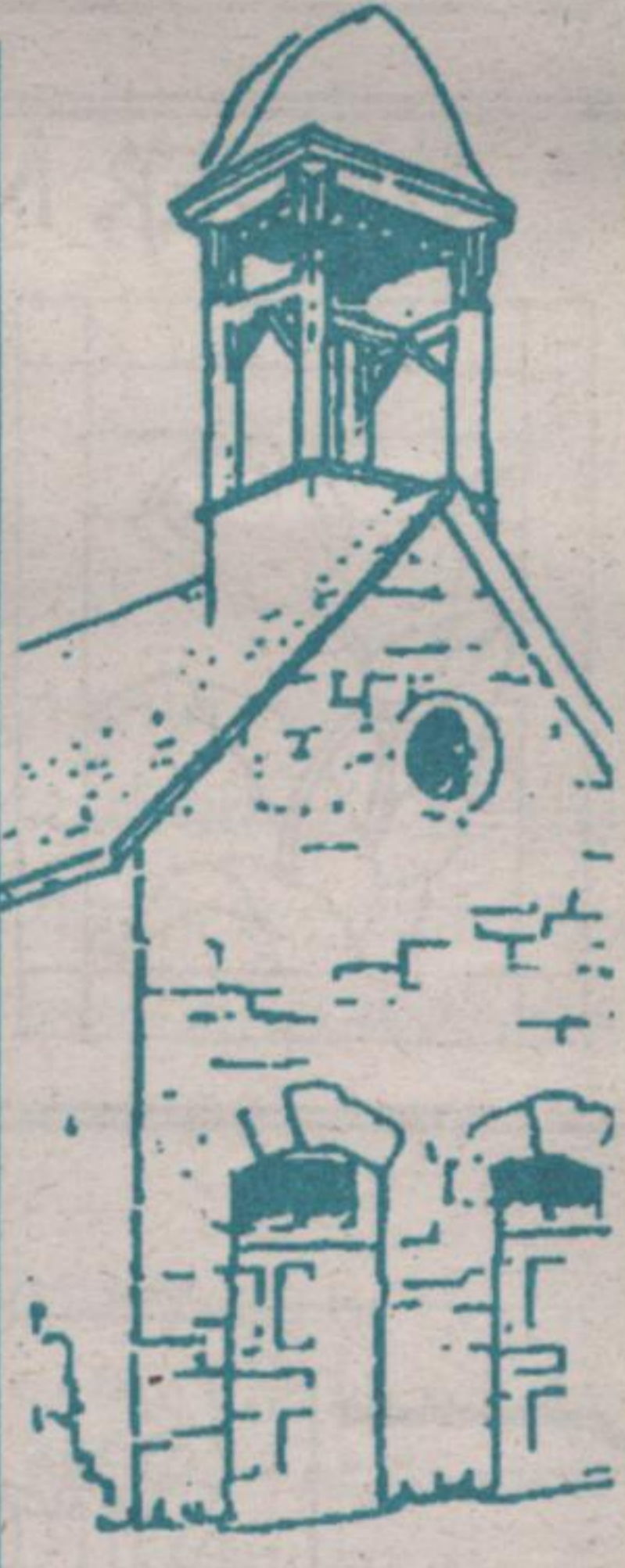
  
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