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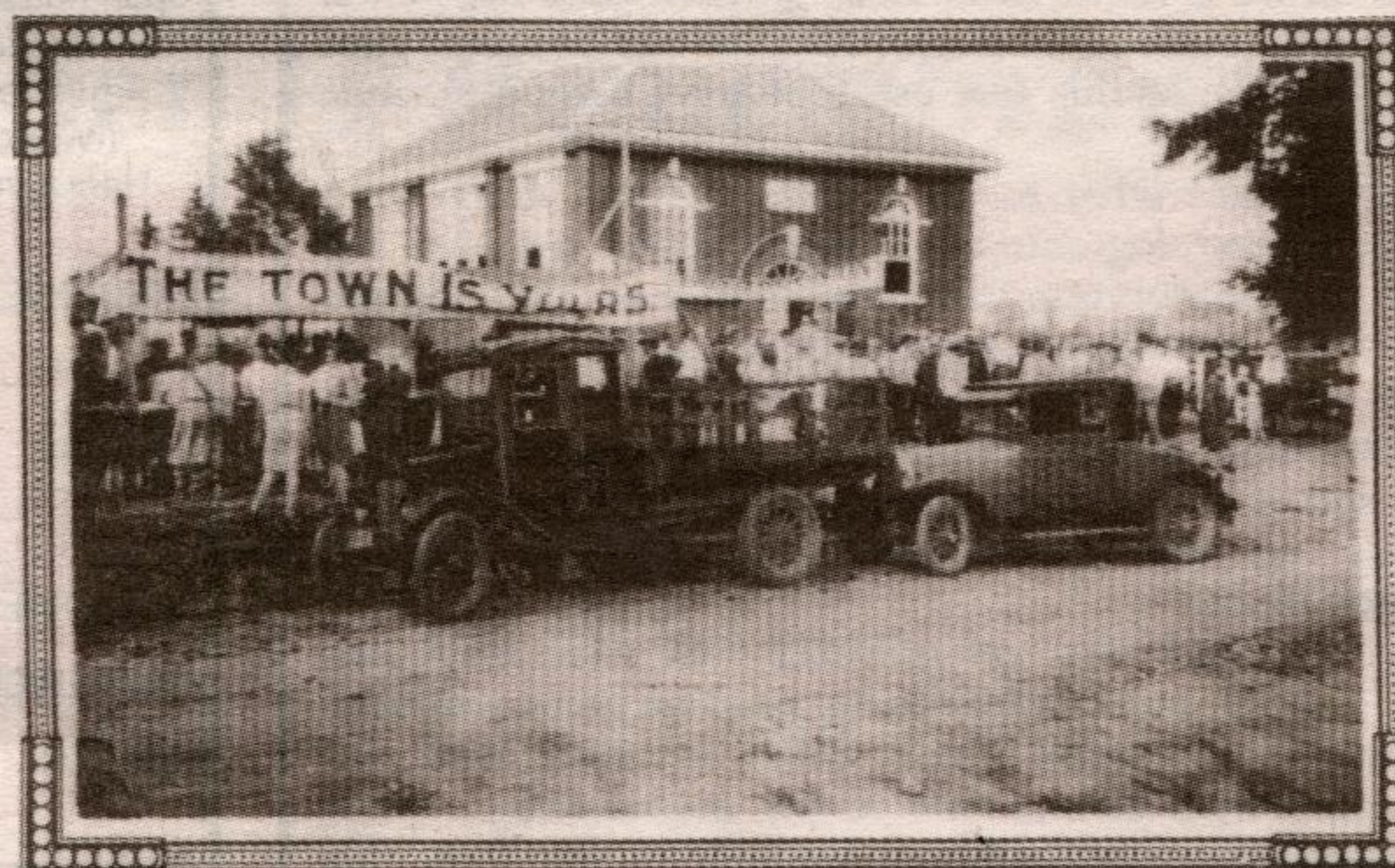
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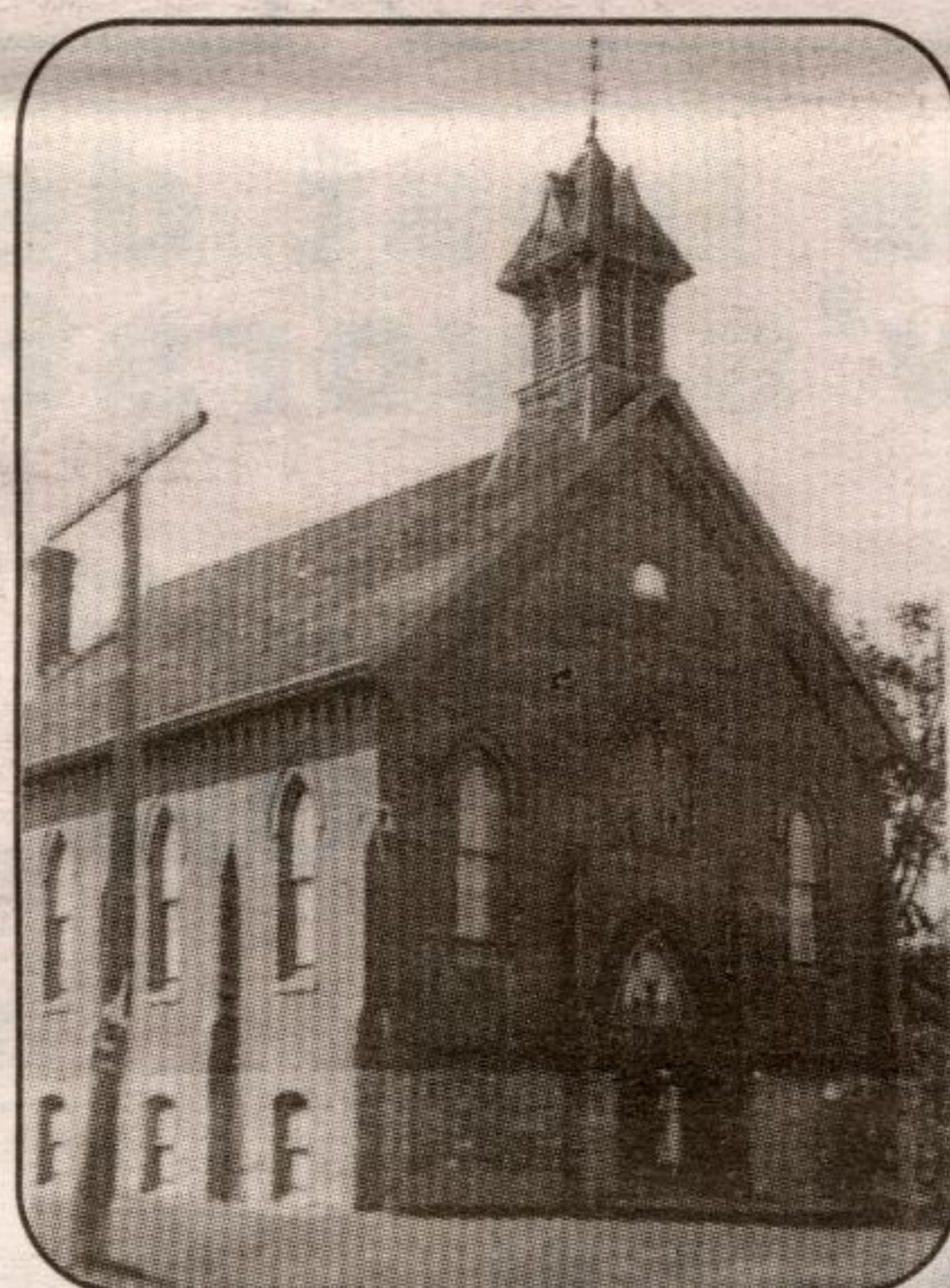
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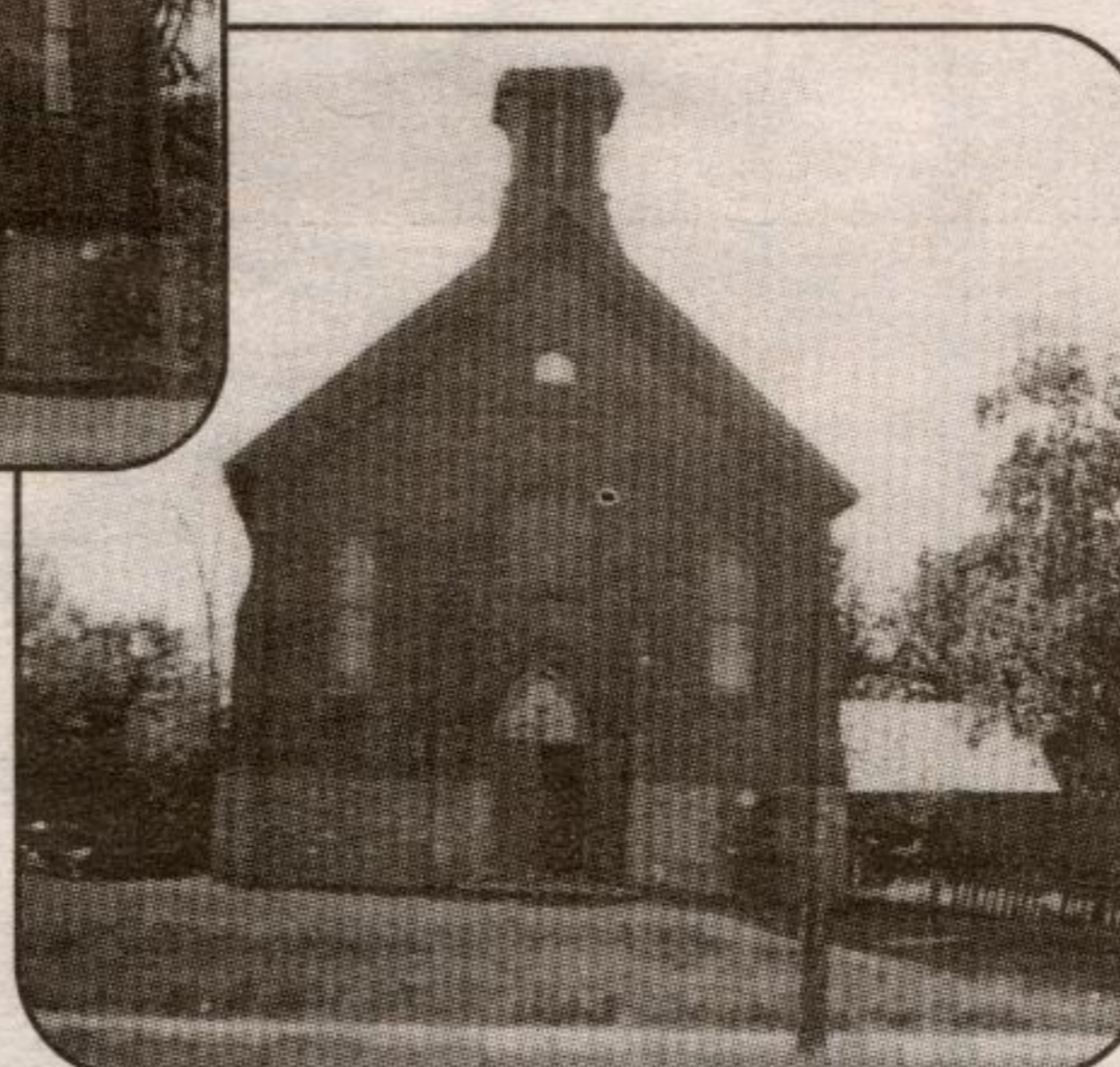
School House Zimmerman, Ontario



School Reunion 1895



Zimmerman Baptist Church at Appleby Line and No. 2 Sideroad



Old Appleby Line above the bridge

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Zimmerman was a small centre, catering to the needs of the farmers nearby. In the beautiful valley that lies between No. 1 and No. 2 Sideroads on the Appleby Line, Burlington, Henry P. Zimmerman had his sawmill and built a large stone house. This house still stands on the corner of Appleby Line and No. 2 Sideroad and is now occupied by the Cookes family and is known as Springloom Farm. The Zimmerman

Family, which made up one quarter of the population at one time, started to spell their name differently. Some of them spelled it with a 'Z' while others used 'S'. As well as a General Store in the early years, there were two sawmills, a grist mill, a shoe maker, a tailor shop, carpenter and a blacksmith shop and a woolen mill was started but never completed. There was also a School and the Post Office was located in the general store. The mail was delivered from Freeman (a small village on the outskirts of Burlington) and each day two school pupils would take turns to gather the mail so the children could take it home when they left school for the day. With the coming of cars and the building of larger towns and cities within driving distance, the local shops and store began to lose busi-

ness. In 1911 the Grist mill operated by the Crawford family burned down. The other shops and mills were abandoned or removed as time passed. In the early 20's Mr. Van Fleet bought the Crawford place and rebuilt part of the Old Grist Mill on the original foundation, and again ground grain for the local trade, but after two years gave up the effort and leased the site to a Toronto "Fresh Air Camp" for two years until the camp found a permanent site. The new building had been used as a sleeping dormitory for the children. Mr. Nixon of Tansley then bought that building and moved it away; the old foundation was left to crumble into the valley and part of it still stands today. In 1928 Miss Ester Jones of Toronto bought the property and renovated the stately old house and grounds, and for a few years ran a Guest House for elderly people. She also bought the store from Mr. Ernest Barlett, who used it as a dwelling. Miss Jones ran a very successful grocery and gift shop business until her death in 1939. Her estate was sold and the new owners had the store torn down and had the grounds and house redone, but after only a few years it was abandoned and fell into such disrepair it was condemned and taken down. Thus the commercial community is only a memory today and the once thriving village of Zimmerman a victim to the end of lumbering in Nelson Township. Five churches were once within driving distance of Zimmerman, in the horse and buggy days. Lowville and Davidson's were both originally Wesleyan Methodist. Davidson's was a small frame church on the east side of Appleby Line, north of the present Zimmerman United Church. The building was later used as a barn behind the 'Parsonage' but it burned down. All that is left now is a small Cemetery on the Appleby Line near No.4 Sideroad. The other three churches, Mountain, Bethesda, and Salem are also gone now, but memories of Salem have persisted. This is the church most of the Zimmerman residents attended. It stood on Walker's Line at No.2 Sideroad until it was purchased by Kilbride residents and taken away to be used as their Community Hall. A cemetery still stands by the site of the church on land donated by the Bridgman family and is still used for burials. Salem Church earned a reputation for its Camp Meetings in the 1870's. These meetings were held at many churches in the summer and became very popular before the turn of the century and the invention of the automobiles. The Salem Camp Meetings were held at the home of Burwell Bridgman. The Evangelical Witness's publication of the New Connection Methodists announced, "Notice is hereby given of a Camp Meeting to be held on Mr. Bridgman's Farm near Salem Church, Nelson on September 11th. Pasturage and stables for horses can be found in the vicinity at reasonable terms. No provision tent on the grounds and no provisions or groceries allowed to be

Partial History of the Village of Zimmerman, Appleby Line between No. 1 and No. 4 Sideroads, County of Halton. Background history by the late Eva Bridgeman and Photos courtesy of Doug Morden. Compiled by Audrey Allison



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