

FOCUS ON CHANTRY

Abel Stevens, a Baptist missionary from Vermont, was the first to settle in the district. He was driven from his land in the aftermath of the American Revolutionary War. In 1794, he was commissioned by the governor of Upper Canada, Sir John Graves Simcoe, to open up and develop what later was known as Bastard Township.

On foot, armed only with a rifle, Stevens walked 220 miles from York (Toronto) to Brockville, then trekked another fourteen miles through bush to Wilsetown, south of Athens. This area was founded by Benoni Wiltse, another United Empire Loyalist from Vermont.

There Stevens was outfitted with an axe, some tools and provisions. He then trudged another six miles through the wilderness to his new farm, north of Plum Hollow.

Stevens cleared the land, built a log cabin, then deeded the property to friends who also had fled Vermont after the war. Moving northwest, Stevens established a settlement which was called Philippsville after the Philips family.

By 1800 Stevens had succeeded in settling 15 United Empire Loyalist's families on land in the triangle formed by Philippsville, Plum Hollow and Newboyne.

In 1805 Stevens' daughter, Eunice was deeded property near Chantry. When Isaac, Eunice's brother, was of age he took over this land and built his home there. It is located just west of the centre of the village on Lot 16 on the seventh Concession. This property is now owned by Elton Kitson. Thelma Stevens, the great-great-granddaughter of Abel Stevens lives near Philippsville.

This is the story of how Bastard Township got its name. Sometime after settlement in this area was started a notice was sent out from the government that it was necessary to give all municipalities a name. Elder (as he was called because of his position in the church) Stevens Sr. was appointed a delegate to Toronto to suggest a name, the understanding being it would be called Stevenstown.

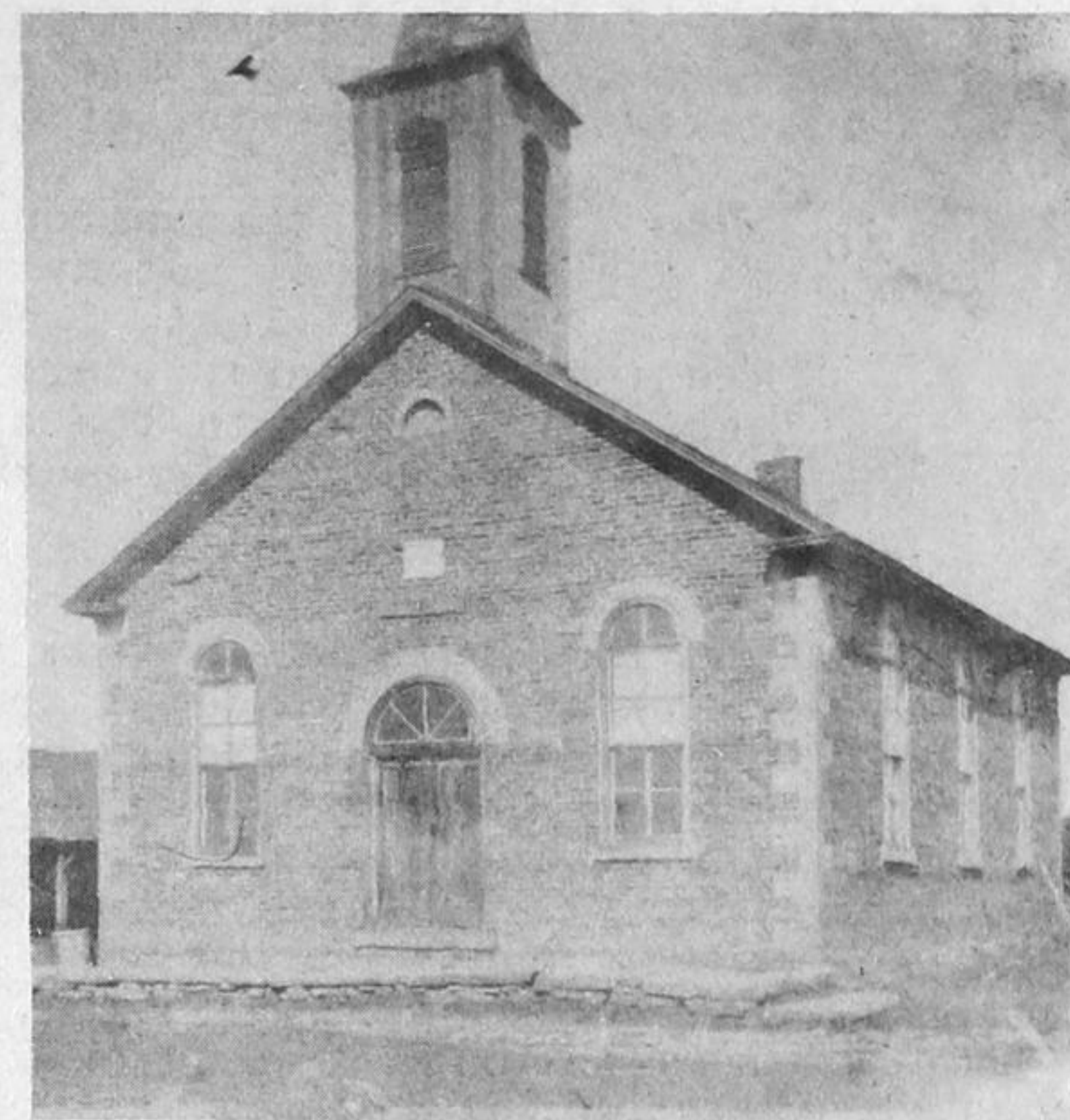
When Elder arrived at the Crown Land's Office the clerks were busily engaged in naming the townships following, as a rule, the suggestions of the surveyors or interested parties. Elder Stevens was appealed to and from modestly hesitated in giving the "Stevenstown" name, saying he did not know what to call the township. One of the clerks said as it has no father it must be a bastard township and as such was put down on the map.

The following is a list of the names of some of the early settlers as taken from the Baptist Church roll. Names on the roll from 1795 to 1805 include Sheldon, Day, Smith, Chamberlain, Seaman, Haskins, Chipman, McCollum, Story, Soper, Huntley, Knapp, Derbyshire Shook and Bullard. Stevens name appeared in 1805. These early settlers came mainly from the New England States.

Chantry which is located on the road connecting Philippsville and Toledo was known as "The Centre" until 1868. This was not an official name but a local one, it being in the centre of Bastard Township. About 1868 a Post Office was established there and given the name of Chantry after the first Postmaster, Mr. Sam Chant. Mr. Chant met the mail carrier at Harlem three times a week. He walked and carried the mail on his back. In those days mail was carried by stage from Brockville to Westport. Mail for Harlem, Chantry and Portland was taken off at Forfar. The route of a carrier was from Forfar to Harlem then to Portland and back to Forfar. Before this the people of the district went to Philippsville or Beverley (now Delta) for their mail.

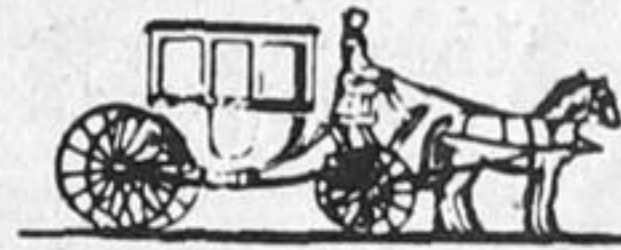
Isaac Abel Stevens is reputed to have had a school built in the 1820's on what is now the farm of Clarence "Mose" Seed. It was a log building, replaced a few years later by a frame school. In 1882 a stone school was constructed and it served the community for over 80 years. It was officially closed in 1965 and the following year the local citizens purchased it. The building is now the Community Hall.

Another pioneer school was located at Stoddard's Corner, two and a half miles northeast on the road to Toledo. It was known as the "brick school". Breakenridge's School was built on the road between Chantry and Delta and what was the "Bowser farm". This was later known as Daytown.



Chantry Methodist Church

THE STAGE COACH INN NEWBORO - ONTARIO



WEDNESDAY NIGHT
is
SPAGHETTI NIGHT

\$1.99 All you can eat

FRIDAY NIGHT
is
"STEAK NIGHT"

10 oz. Rib Eye Steak for \$7.50
14 oz. T-Bone Steak for \$8.95
16 oz. T-Bone Steak for \$9.95

STEAK DINNERS INCLUDE-

All you can eat at our
salad bar, Fresh mushrooms or fried onions,
Baked potatoes or french fries, Dinner rolls
& Tea or Coffee.

SATURDAY NIGHT

TRY OUR TENDER JUICY

Prime Rib of Beef for \$8.95

THE ABOVE DINNER INCLUDES-

All you can eat at our salad bar, Choice of
baked potatoe or french fries,
Vegetables of the day, Dinner Rolls
& Tea or Coffee.

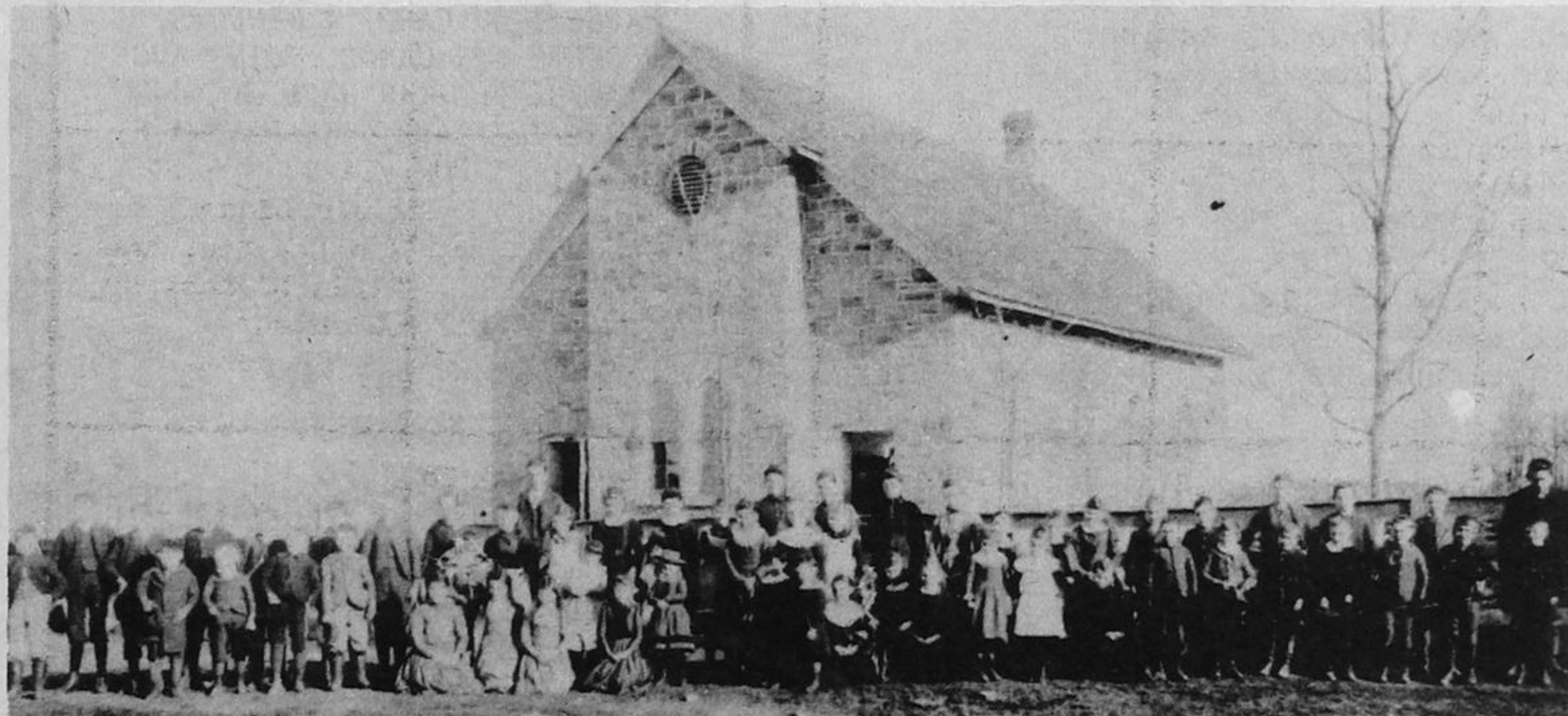
TRY OUR GIANT
SUNDAY SMORGASBORG

STARTING AT 5 P.M.

This includes all you can eat, salad bar,
variety of hot and cold dishes, wide variety
of homemade desserts and beverages.

ALL FOR \$8.50

HALF PRICE FOR CHILDREN UNDER 12
RESERVATIONS APPRECIATED



Chantry School 1892 Teacher Mr. Benson Empey