

Allan married Desiree Sly (born 1793) about 1818. Allan and Desiree's son, Ira, received 50 acres (it was customary to bequeath 50 acres to each descendant) which is where Iva Sweet now lives. Their daughter, Hester, who was a school teacher, married Joseph Mainse, a son of an engineer on the Rideau Canal. Hester fell heir to the 50 acres where Herb Mainse now lives. (These are the forebearers of the several Mainse families now living at Sweet's Corners).

Allan's daughter Parthena, married Skyler Lake and was given the property where Ken Berry is now.

Joseph Mainse was killed due to an accident with his horses when he was 38 years of age leaving Hester (who continued teaching) to raise a family of Allan, Edward and Electa (Robeson). The story is told of Allan and Edward playing on a Sweet's Corners Ball team Ed, who was the catcher, covered his hands with rosin to harden them, since gloves were not worn.

The original school was located nearer the corner than the second one on the road to Grippen Lake. It was possibly built about 1826, it had no playground at all. It is presumed that it burned and a second one was built about 1850 and was in use until 1960 when it was closed and the students transported by bus to Lyndhurst. The present Sweet's Corners Elementary School was officially opened in 1973. The students from fourteen original school sections now attend this school.

Some of the early teachers were Emma Gray, Ruby Minnish, George Dillon, Andrew Dillon and George Wheeler.

The Rural School Fairs were organized by Gordon Smith, Agricultural Representative for Leeds County from 1912, whose office was in Athens. The fairs were held annually in September. In the spring each pupil decided what flower and vegetable he wished to grow and exhibit at the fair. The seeds were supplied by the Department of Agriculture. Each school paraded before the judges. Many students entered calves to be judged and races of all kinds were held. At four o'clock the judging in the tent was completed and each pupil rushed in to see who had won the prize ribbons. The school fair for the south-western part of the county was held at Sweet's Corners across the road from the school.

In 1900 there was a cheese factory, a school, a blacksmith shop, a grocery store and a post office combined, all located on its own corner at the intersection. The store and post office was part of the home of Graham Church which was beside the present church. This house has recently been demolished. Mrs. Graham Church operated the store and post office from approximately 1875 to 1910. She was a very genial, hard working lady who helped everyone. Her husband, Graham, had a blacksmith shop for many years. Their daughter, Amelia was a dressmaker. Mrs. George Berry was Postmistress after Mrs. Church. She lived in the house where Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Cuddy now live. Mr. Berry bought that lot from Mr. Sliter in 1896 for \$300.00. Mrs. Cuddy is a daughter of the Berry's. Mrs. Berry was Postmistress until Rural Mail was started.



Sweet's Corners School 1850-1960



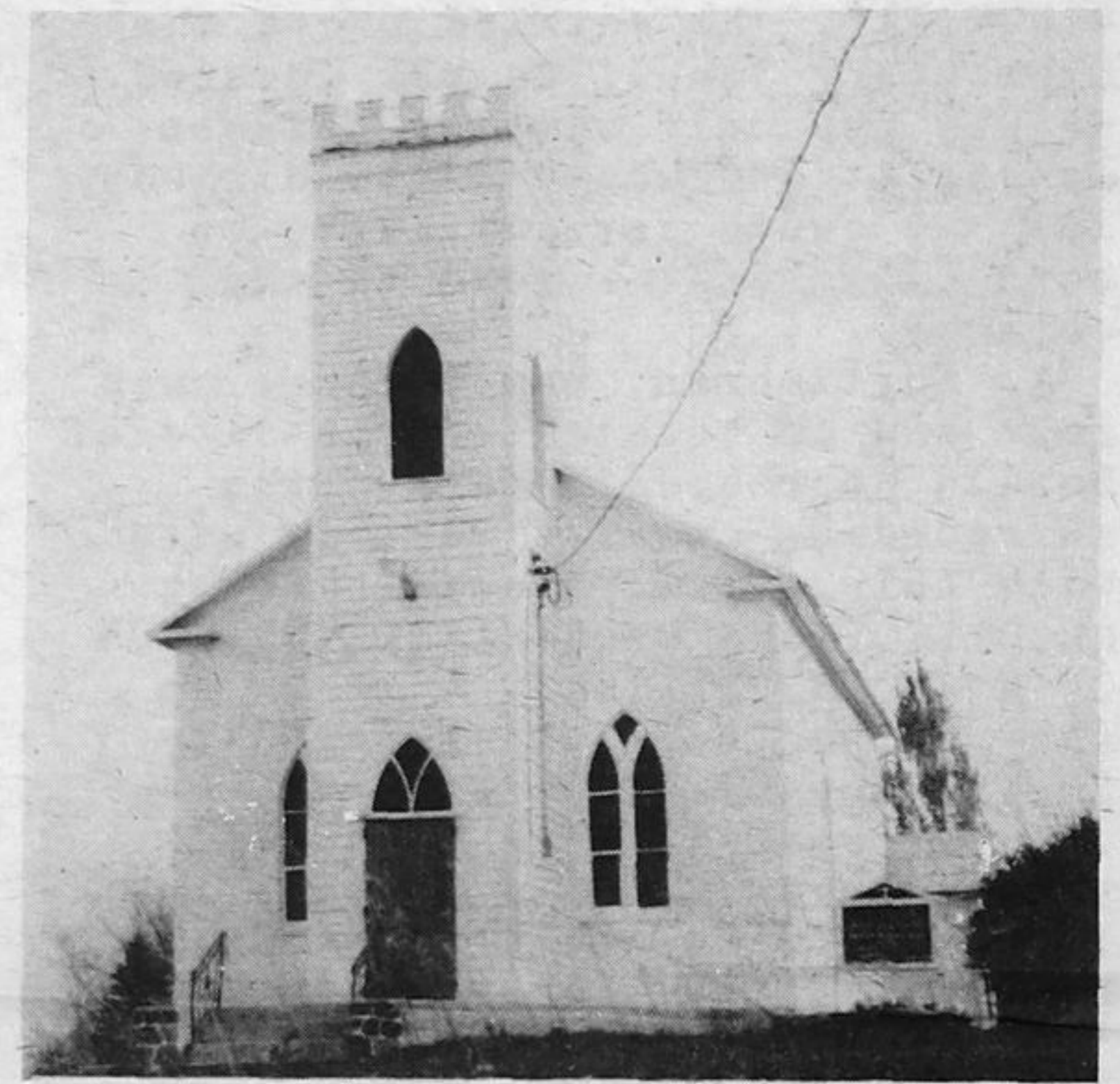
Mrs. Ford Kenny and
Great Grandchildren

The cheese factory was built in 1899 and 1900 by Frank Wiltse with living quarters for his family on the second floor. In 1907 to 1909 he built his lovely home beside the factory. The factory flourished until 1937 when it burned. In 1938

a new factory was built and Charles Roantree, who joined the staff in 1935 became the cheesemaker. It closed in 1952 but the building is still there and it is the picture Mr. Eldon Kirkland has so kindly painted for this issue's front cover.

St. John's Anglican Church was built on a parcel of land that was deeded to the Bishop of Toronto on December 12, 1850 for the purpose of a church and burying ground. This land belonged to Reuben Hicock. The building was built by Mr. Thomas Wills (1822-1907). The Main Nave structure today is much the same as in 1850. The first baptism on record is dated June 5, 1853 and is that of Richard, son of Isaac and May Toker. The latest baptism was the son of Mr. & Mrs. Michael Dent (Mrs. Dent is a faithful typist for the "Lantern"). The attendance at service on June 3, 1888 was 120 persons. Members today recall it told to them that families would arrive in their wagons for service, and have to sit in the wagons outside the church to listen to the service because the church was so crowded. This is still a very active church.

Mrs. Ford Kenny, the former Myrtle Mainse who will be 91 years of age next month was asked to tell us something she remembers as a child. This is her story:



St. John's Anglican Church

"Father kept a few hives of bees and would extract the honey in a hand turned extractor. He would put some of it in 20 lb. buckets and sell it for 10¢ a lb. Two or three buckets would be taken to the grocery store in Lyndhurst in exchange for groceries.

One warm evening in August, 1899, I would be 10 years old, a swarm of bees were flying around the hive and Stuart, my brother about 2½ years old, took a cup and tried to catch the bees in it. Of course, they didn't agree with that. As Stuart was bare headed with very fair hair clipped short the bees lit on him by the hundred and left his head full of bee stingers. Mother heard the screams and tried to pull the stingers out. This seemed impossible so she carried him across the road to Mrs. Graham Church, who helped. In time his head was clear of bee stingers, he was bathed with soda water and appeared quite well after the ordeal.

Mr. Andy Dillion taught school most of the time I was in Public School. We wore heavy knitted socks over our shoes in winter time (no overshoes). In the summer we all went barefoot and seemed to enjoy it. We didn't have any fancy toys or bicycles like they have today.

There have been many changes in 91 years, we hope for the better. I wonder if we appreciate all the good things we enjoy." Continued on page 6