

THE METHODIST CHURCH

The components of the Methodist Church, although sharing a doctrinal similarity, present a varied and complex historical background. Basically, they represent splinter groups from England and the United States which required most of the 19th century to work out their own national destiny in Canada.

Mission operations began in Upper Canada in 1791 from the United States and the area was organized as a District under the Genesee Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church (U.S.). The Canada Conference of the church was set apart in 1828 as the Methodist Episcopal Church in Canada. Most of the members of this church joined, in 1833, with the British Wesleyan Methodist Church, (Br.) to form the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Canada. Due to a dispute over control of missionary money, these groups separated in 1840, but were reunited in 1847 when this matter was resolved.

The splinter that remained out of the 1833 union formed themselves into the Methodist Episcopal Church in Canada. This became the second largest Methodist body in Ontario and claimed to be the true continuation of the original Methodist Episcopal Church. This contention was denied by the courts and other Methodist Episcopal bodies in the United States. In 1884, it gave up its episcopal form of polity, accepted lay representation and made other minor concessions in its union with the other Methodist bodies.

In 1854, the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Canada joined with the Wesleyan Methodist Conference, Lower Canada. This latter conference had been served by British missionaries and was aligned with the British Wesleyan Church before this amalgamation. In the same year, the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Canada acquired control over the British Wesleyan missions in Western Canada.

The first broader union occurred in 1874 when the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Canada joined with the Wesleyan Methodist Conference of Eastern British America, and together they united with the Methodist New Connexion Church of Canada.

The Methodist church in the Maritimes had a long and distinguished history. Missionaries visited Newfoundland as early as 1765, and William Black toured Nova Scotia, from the United States, in 1781. The area was originally served from the U.S. after 1785, and a Nova Scotia District was formed in 1786. After 1800, the region was supervised by the British Wesleyan church. In 1815, Newfoundland was set apart; later Bermuda was added to the Maritimes. In 1826 the Nova Scotia District was divided. Prince Edward Island remained with Nova Scotia and the Annapolis Valley was administered by the New Brunswick District. Finally in 1855 a Conference was formed and this federated with the central-Canadian Church in 1874.

The Methodist New Connexion Church of Canada was in its own right an amalgamation of several smaller groups. British New Connexion missionaries first came to Lower Canada in 1837. In 1840, John Addyman visited Upper Canada and made first official contact with the Canadian Wesleyan Methodist Church. (This is a different church from the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Canada). The Canadian Wesleyan Methodist Church was a faction of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Canada that had separated under Henry Ryan in 1828. It united with the New Connexion in 1841 to form the Canadian Wesleyan Methodist New Connexion Church. It was mutually advantageous since the New Connexion wanted a foothold in Canada and the Ryanites

-United Church Archives
Toronto



Picture was
reproduced from
one given by
Mrs. Nell Barton.
erected 1817

METHODIST MEETING HOUSE

1817 - July 23

Samuel Heck, Jonathan Woodcock, Timothy Hodge, Immanuel Dake and James Holden, trustees, agreed with Sebra Beeman and Amos Knapp, builders, to erect a Methodist "meeting house" on Lot 11, 3rd concession of Augusta, (at Maynard) for the sum of £ 347, 16s.

-- On this date, Brockville Recorder.

A deed, dated July 3, 1817, and registered September 16, 1818, by Lyman Dake, executor to Samuel Heck and other trustees, is on file in the Grenville County Registry Office. This covers 1 acre, being part of the front of Lot 11 in Concession 3, Augusta.

There is also a deed, dated April 12, 1848, and registered the same date, for 1 acre immediately in the rear of the above acre by John Holden to Joseph C. Bass and associates and successors in office in trust for a public burying ground.

In May 1916, the Maynard Women's Institute purchased the church lot, the church having been removed, and made the deed over to the Maynard Cemetery Board. This land is now the site of the Soldiers' Memorial Monument. The price paid by the Women's Institute was \$75.00.

T. W. Leavitt's "History of Leeds & Grenville" lists early trustees as Samuel Heck, John Lawrence, Philomen Pennock, Timothy Hodge, and Joseph Towsley.

Witness to deed of land purchased from Polly Dake - Emmanuel Dake, James Holden, Jonathon Woodcock.

First minister - Rev. M. Puffer

Second - Emmanuel Heck

The church was of brick construction, with beautiful woodwork on the inside. There was a gallery at the rear, and reported to have been a lovely small church altogether.

As seen in the picture, there were sheds at the rear of the lot to accommodate parishoners' horses.

It is thought that the dimensions of the building were 40' x 30' with porch being 13' x 9'.

There is evidence at the rear of the cenotaph today of a foundation having been there at one time.

For history of this church
see

Victoria United Church
1859 - 1934

and

Victoria United Church
1859 - 1959



Methodist Meeting-house

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First minister Rev. M. Puffer
Second - Emanuel Heck

AUGUSTA CHAPEL (WESLEYAN METHODIST)

In 1817 plans were made for a chapel to be built in Augusta. Articles of agreement were made at Augusta in the District of Johnstown and Province of Upper Canada on 23rd of July, 1817, between SAMUEL HECK, JONATHON WOODCOCK, TIMOTHY HODGE, MANUEL DAKE and JAMES HOLDEN, trustees and SEBRA BEEMAN and AMOS KNAPP, builders. This was an Episcopal Methodist Church, the first in Augusta township, and it stood on the present site of the Soldiers' Memorial Monument in Maynard Cemetery. It was known as the AUGUSTA CHAPEL, and was regarded as the mother of those around it. At that time it was the most important on the Circuit to the Quarterly meeting, and communion services in it. People came great distances and many times the church was too small for the congregation. There were services in it every Sunday. When the itinerant minister could not be present, it would be supplied by local preachers, principally by Samuel Heck, one of the first trustees.

In 1831, there arose an agitation among the Methodists in Canada over the proposition to form an organic union with the Wesleyans of England. This movement, though not unanimous, was carried into effect and ratified in 1833. The Augusta Chapel then became the Wesleyan Methodist Church. There was a small minority who earnestly protested against this proposed union. This they did for several reasons. First, they wished to remain an independent church in Canada; secondly, they held a decided preference for the Episcopal form of church government. Believing it to be their duty to themselves, their country and their God, they proceeded to re-organize the Methodist Episcopal Church in Canada.

Dissension arose over the union among the members worshipping in the old Augusta Chapel which resulted in the Episcopal Methodist followers withdrawing to build a small stone church on ground once owned by John Heck on the site of the present Victoria United. For the next 50 years, two Methodist churches were maintained in Maynard community.

The exact date of the building of the stone church is not known. It is on record that the late Mrs. Philip Fretwell (1852-1936) remembered her mother telling her of walking, when a small girl, with her mother through the woods by a blazed trail from the Glassford farm in the 4th concession, Augusta, to the dedication of the church. Percy Fretwell (1894-1982) remembered his grandmother telling him that the documents of this old stone church are embedded in the cornerstone on the southeast side of the present Victoria United Church. William Fretwell, on the death of his father, gave to the church Archives, the doors from the stone church which had been in storage on the farm for 125 years. The stone steps which led into the two porches of Victoria, are still on the Fretwell farm, used at the entrance to the shed and veranda.



Methodist Meeting House

erected 1818

Lot 11 Con 3 Augusta.

Picture, thanks to Mrs. Nell Barton.
reproduced for Tweedsmuir Book.

This edifice stood immediately to the north of the present Soldiers' Memorial Monument, traces of foundation clearly visible



THE FIRST REGULAR CHURCH SERVICES HERE WERE HELD IN
THE HOME OF TIMOTHY AND CATHERINE HODGES, IN AN
UNDIVIDED CHAMBER OF THEIR LARGE STONE HOUSE,
ERECTED 1802.

The tall stone chimney remained a landmark, long
after the house had gone. The present Maynard
Public School is on that site.

Timothy and Catherine Hodge

Photo -
Louise
Wilson