

# United Church archives committee gets grant

By Dianne Jensen  
Citizen correspondent

13/8/83

A plan to produce an inventory of church records from United Church parishes in the Ottawa and Seaway Valley area — some records dating back to the 1820s — has received a \$64,000 grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (formerly known as the Canada Council).

The two-year project, co-ordinated by conference archivist Susan Rice, will involve searching through the files of 115 churches in Ontario to help compile a comprehensive list of all records held in local churches.

According to convenor of the Ottawa Presbytery Archives Committee, Donald McKenzie, whose committee will be responsible for 58 Ottawa-area churches, the search will include information on record books, newsletters, church bulletins, sound recordings, deeds and photographs or paintings of

people and events.

"Right now we don't even know what records churches have," says McKenzie, a enthusiastic geneologist who will be co-ordinating the local effort.

Committee members, who will be paid, hope to complete the bulk of their task by spring 1984.

Once published, the book will be made available to archives and libraries and individuals involved in family or local history.

Committee members will also be on the lookout for records which are extremely old or which seem to be deteriorating.

"Most churches don't have very good facilities for storing records," says McKenzie. "We'll be encouraging people to turn some things over to the conference archives."

Many such records have already disappeared, he adds.

"People often don't realise their va-

lue ... they haven't been looked after, or someone has thrown them out or there has been a fire — and so many records have been lost in church fires."

McKenzie will also be encouraging churches to microfilm their records, which he describes as "the best insurance, as well as making them more available to people."

While listing all available records, including current church files, the local committee members will at the same time be measuring the size of each collection and noting details such as accessibility and permanent location.

A similar inventory has already been partially completed in Quebec, under a grant from Les Archives Nationales de Quebec.

The new grant, which begins in September, will enable the conference archivist to complete this work as well as undertaking the new project.

1988 - Goldie Connell and Lillian Moulton sorted through the files at the manse in preparation for sending records to the Archives in Ottawa. n Rev. Janet worked with us in this project.

The statistical records have been photocopied by Goldie and the staff at the Grenville County Historical Society Archival Resource Centre at Homewood and a copy will remain there for reference. The originals will be taken to the United Church Archives, located in the Ottawa City Archives, 174 Stanley Street, which is near the Rideau River in New Edinburgh.

In charge is Donald A. McKenzie, Deputy Archivist, Montreal and Ottawa Conference.

Telephone 613-233-2080.

Lyndon Cronk was also very helpful in collecting documents, as were parishoners in the Bethel congregation.

These records are housed in archival conditions, and are available to researchers by appointment. There is no cost to the Charge.

NAME Victoria United Church  
FORMER NAME(S) Methodist Episcopal  
PLACE Maynard, Ontario. Census 3, Augusta Twp.  
PRESBYTERY Seaway Valley  
PASTORAL CHARGE Augusta  
ADDRESS OF CHURCH R.R. 2, Prescott, Ont., K0E 1T0.  
TELEPHONE 613-925-4974.  
FOUNDING DATE Methodist class 1788 Present church built 1859.  
DATE CLOSED  
HISTORY PUBLISHED? yes no  
1934, 1959 copies included. A new one for 1984, hopefully.  
CONDITION OF CONSERVATION excellent good poor  
TOTAL MEASUREMENT 75 cm.  
AUTHORISATION TO PUBLISH LIST OF RECORDS? yes no  
ACCESSIBILITY free restricted with authorization  
ADDITIONAL REMARKS Goldie Cornell has a Women's Institute.  
Tractarian Book on the Churches of Maynard.  
DATE COMPLETED September 22, 1983 SIGNATURE Abie M. Hughes

NOTE:

At the January 25, 1988 annual meeting, Goldie submitted this finding from the Church Archives as a basis for her request that at Victoria we begin this year to celebrate the formation of a congregation rather than the building of a church.

It is documented that in 1788 a Methodist Class was organized in Augusta (Maynard) with the settlers who had come with Paul and Barbara Heck at the forefront. The Hecks had been granted Lots 13 and 14, Concession 3, when they arrived in 1784. For a time, they held meetings in the homes, but by 1788 they had become established on their farms and were ready to be organized and recognized. The "Heck Settlement" was known to have been a leader in these matters.

When one joined the Methodist congregation, he was put in a class, with a leader. He was required to attend a weekly meeting for prayer and confession. Each member memorized verses of Scripture, these were used in prayer meetings when families gathered for worship. Members confessed their shortcomings, and were suitably chastised. Evidently, they reported on other members should they fall into sin. Only men were registered in a Class, but the entire family came to the "cottage meetings".

Of course, Barbara and Paul Heck were influential in matters of religion, and their son, Samuel, became a lay preacher, travelling many miles to work with the classes as they formed.

When a church building was finally erected, it was a small stone structure on the land grant of John Heck, Lot 13, the site of the present Victoria United Church.

Class meetings were held in the home of John Lawrence, conducted by Samuel Embury, and attended by members of the families who had come up river with the Hecks.

Rev. Wm. Losee was the first itinerant minister to come to Canada, and it is believed that he preached for the Methodists in Augusta in 1789 or 1790. Other families in the early church were Dulmage, Bass, Knapp, Jones, Honeywell, Keeler, Barton, Throop, Fell, Everts, Glassford, Nettleton, Sherwood, Hodge and Scott.

By 1808, the Augusta Circuit was one of nine in Upper Canada, with Henry Ryan as preaching elder.

In 1817, the first Methodist Convention in Canada was held on the Augusta Circuit, in Elizabethtown. There were 80 ministers present, many coming from the United States.

When there were some 20 classes, a circuit was formed with a minister in charge, who was called an elder. The elder visited each class at least once a month, travelling his rounds on foot, or later on horseback, hence the name "saddlebag preacher".

SEE 1859-1984 history for further details.

*Goldie A. Connell*

# Marking two centuries P.J. 2/19/88

MAYNARD — Maynard and area residents will gather at Victoria United Church this Sunday to mark the 200th anniversary of the arrival of Methodism in the township.

The archives of the United Church of Canada record the fact that a Methodist class was organized in Augusta in 1788, the beginning of a recognized part of the Methodist Conference of Canada.

Sunday's anniversary service is scheduled to begin at 11:15am and will feature guest speaker Laurie McKnight-Walker, the diaconal minister in Winchester.

The ceremony will also feature noted local historian Goldie Connell who will detail the historical significance of the anniversary.

The service will also see the dedication of two planters. The planters have been donated by the local UCW in remembrance of all the women who have served over the past 200 years.

Musical entertainment will be provided by the choir, led by Carol Polite and organist Beryl McIntosh. Rev. Janet Evans of Victoria United Church will also be in attendance.

One of the leading men in the drive to establish Methodism in the Augusta circuit was Samuel Heck, son of Paul and Barbara Heck who brought Methodism to Canada from New York State in 1784.

Continued on Page 2

Paul and Barbara Heck, with their three sons and one daughter, were granted Crown Land on Concession 3, Lot 14, where they pioneered in the settlement. Samuel lived with his aging parents, John was granted Lot 13, and Jacob settled near Montreal. Others of this group — the Lawrences, Switzers, Dulmages — also received Crown grants along the concession 3. These devout Christians began prayer meetings and worship services in their homes, and, in summer months, held camp meetings in the woods. They were soon joined by other settlers — Scotts, Basses, Throops, Everts, and others. As the settlement grew, they held services in the barn on the Scott holding, now the site of Maynard Public School.

When circumstances permitted, very early in the 1800s (probably 1810), they erected a small stone church on land given by John Heck, lot 13, just a little west and north of the present church building. The doors from this

church are now installed in the porch of the present church, with a plaque commemorating that fact.

In a list dated 1819, there were two local Methodist congregations, on Concession 3, a Wesleyan Methodist Chapel on the present site of the Soldiers' Memorial Monument at Maynard Cemetery, and this small building. Other congregations in this circuit at that time were Yonge, Landsdowne, Mallorytown, Elizabethtown, Caintown, Front Edwardsburgh and Matilda. Over the years, these have changed as the population grew, and now we have just Maynard and Bethel.

There were local elders, local preachers and exhorters, and later when financial support was necessary, collectors. From 1827 on, we have minutes of Quarterly Board meetings, giving us the names of parishioners and some detail of their activities. The period from 1788 to 1813 is not fully documented, due to the pioneer conditions which existed.

In the beginning, the circuit was named Oswegatchie, the name of an Indian village which stood a little east of where Ogdensburg now is located. This was the second circuit formed in Canada West, the first being in Kingston.

By 1859 the congregation had outgrown the small church, and plans were made for this redbrick building to accommodate both the Methodist congregations. Those who remained loyal to the Wesleyan Chapel, and would not take part in the Union of Conferences, derided the new edifice, calling it "The White Elephant". However, it was not too long before both congregations joined for worship in this building.

Each year since 1859 local residents have marked the anniversary of the building. This year they are marking the 200th anniversary of the Augusta Circuit and the congregation which established Methodism here under great difficulties.



Banner constructed by Nancy Buker for the 200th anniversary of Methodism in Augusta September 1988

# Anniversary celebration planned Sunday for Methodist congregation in Augusta

MAYNARD — There will be a celebration of the 200th anniversary of the organization of the Methodist Class in Augusta at Maynard, 1788-1988 on Sunday, September 25, 11:15 a.m., at Victoria United Church (formerly Methodist), in Maynard.

Paul and Barbara Heck, founders of Methodism in America, received a Crown grant on Concession 3, Lot 14, and, with others of that famed band of pioneers, had come to settle there with their families. Early worship was conducted in the homes, with John Lawrence and Samuel Heck the leaders.

By 1788, they had become recognized by the Methodist Conference of Canada West. It was a few years before they could erect a church building. John Heck donated a site for the first church on his Crown grant, lot 13, and a small stone chapel was built there. In 1859 the large red brick church now used was built on the same site, and recently the doors from the small church were incorporated into the porch of the present church.

This group followed the Episcopal Methodist services, but another group of Methodists of the Wesleyan persuasion had built Wesleyan Chapel on the same road, the present site of the Soldiers' Memorial Monument at Maynard Cemetery. The Wesleyan and Episcopal Conferences united, but some of the flock did not agree, and the large building built to accommodate both congregations was derided by the Wesleyans as the "White Elephant".

For some years there were two Methodist congregations

in Maynard, but eventually all came together in Victoria. No one in living memory can tell just what the differences were, but it is known that the Episcopalians had a church organ which the wife of the resident minister played. The Wesleyans did not allow any musical instrument in their service.

Records in Victoria's archives include lists of parishioners, local elders, preachers, exhorters and collectors. There are minutes of quarterly board meetings from 1827 which give an insight into the activities there. The period 1788 to 1813 is not fully documented, due to the conditions which existed in the pioneer settlement.

Each year since 1859, the anniversary of the church building has been marked, but this year it is the anniversary of the congregation that is being celebrated.

Guest speaker for the occasion will be Laurie McKnight-Walker of Winchester. There will be special music by the choir directed by Carol Polite, with Beryl McIntosh, organist. Memorial items will be dedicated, gifts from the United Church Women's group. The annual anniversary dinner will follow on Wednesday night.



This is a most happy event for those of us interested in our heritage, especially for those whose ancestors, like mine, were part of that early congregation.

Earliest family names we find - HECK, LAWRENCE, SWITZER, EMBURY, and DULMAGE. These people came to claim Crown grants of 200 acres each to settle in Augusta Township. They were quickly followed by other Loyalist families - BASS, SCOTT, THROOP, PERRIN, EVERTS, KNAPP, CONKLIN and others by the year 1810.

1788 the AUGUSTA CIRCUIT was recognized by the Methodist Conference of Canada West. Of course, they had held services before that time, in their homes, barns and in the out-of-doors in summer, having come here to pursue their ideal of freedom of worship.

What was a circuit? Religious groups were organized into groups to be served by saddlebag or itinerant preachers. Each CLASS met with a leader in a home at least monthly, for prayer, study of Scriptures and worship. They confessed shortcomings and were admonished by the leader. They memorized vast quantities of Scripture and strengthened each other in the faith. First leaders here were JOHN LAWRENCE and SAMUEL HECK. These classes were for men only, women were allowed to take part in the regular worship services, to serve and to prepare for the visits of the minister and other travellers.

Augusta was at first part of the Oswegatchie and the Kingston circuits, but in 1788 it was recognized as a permanent point for worship.

In 1810 (thereabouts) was erected a stone chapel on land given by JOHN HECK, part of his farm, Con. 3, Lot 13. This served until 1859 when the present brick church was built. The doors from this stone chapel were recovered from the barn of the Fretwell farm across the road when it was sold in 1984, and placed at the entrance to the porch of the brick church with a suitable plaque marking them. They had been placed in the barn of Philip Fretwell who was very active in the building of the new church, and remained there until this date.

Augusta has been linked with various other points at times according to the growth of settlements.....Lansdowne, Yonge, Elizabethtown, Caintown, Front Edwardsburgh, Matilda, and others...More recently with Maitland, North Augusta, Manhard, Domville, Nelsonville, Algonquin. At present two churches remain on the circuit - Bethel United and Victoria in Maynard.

At one time, 27 classes were listed on the Augusta Circuit.

We are fortunate to have saved many of the records of the Augusta churches. Minutes of the Quarterly Board deliberations of 1827 are held, giving names of members, activities and work done.

1859 saw the building of the large brick edifice, named for Queen Victoria, It was Episcopal Methodist in contrast to the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel which had been thriving east of it since 1819. This chapel stood on the site of the present Soldiers' War Memorial at Maynard Cemetery. Following the union at headquarters of the two sects, Victoria Church was home to all the Methodists, though the Wesleyans did not give up without a struggle.

For what reason we do not know, it was found necessary in 1888 to almost completely rebuild Victoria structure. At that time, colored glass was installed in the windows, steel beams reinforced the frame, and buttresses on the exterior supported it.

WOMEN were not named in Class lists, until later when the designation "widow" appears before some names. But, the Ladies' Aid, community relief, support of Missions, both at home and afield, the Women's Missionary Society, the Women's Association, and now the United Church Women, all showed that the ladies were of great importance in the church work. They also taught Sunday School classes, and, from the first, supplied the musical accompaniment for services. They baked, cleaned, served - things we still do. But times are changing, and some men have been seen in the kitchen helping while their ladies conducted meetings. We have come a long way, Baby!

When Paul Heck died in 1795, Samuel was given care of his mother, Barbara. She went some time later to live with him in his holding on the River front. The farm was sold to Andrew PERRIN, my ancestor, who had first settled in Charleville on the Nation River. The Samuel Heck house was recently demolished by the DuPont Company of Canada. A large stone house on the river bank, at one time thought to have been the last place that Barbara Heck resided, was torn down by the same company. It could not be proven by protesting groups that she had truly lived there, dates conflicted, and thus the United Church officials did not press its preservation. It was taken down, stone by stone, and stored for further action, but burned before any funds or information could be located.

SO WE HAVE - this building for 126 years  
- this congregation for 200 years  
We honour them today, recognize their efforts. They worshipped here, a community of faith, and now we begin the next 100 years.

HISTORY of the church - 1934 for the 75th anniversary by Bessie B. Lane  
1959 for the 100th anniversary by May E. Carson  
1984 for 125th by Goldie A. Connell

*Researched and delivered by Goldie A. Connell  
Sept. 25, 1988*

# Church marks 200th anniversary of the Methodist Class in Augusta

By SHARON BOASE  
Staff Writer

MAYNARD — The congregation of Victoria United Church celebrated the 200th anniversary Sunday of the organization of the Methodist Class in Augusta at Maynard.

"We sorely need to reclaim and nurture some of that passionate Methodist zeal," said Minister Laurie McKnight-Walker, a team member of the ministry at Winchester Pastoral Charge and the guest speaker at Sunday morning's worship service.

As a way of putting "flesh and bones on the great evangelical movement of the 1700 and 1800s," McKnight-Walker painted a word picture of her late grandfather.

John Wesley Keyes, who was born in 1886 and died in 1972, was a "staunch Methodist," said McKnight-Walker, "much like your own ancestry."

Her grandfather was an eternally patient and disciplined man, she said, who was highly principled and scrupulous in both his public and private life.

He served as reeve of Wolfe Island near Kingston and was an elder of the church. He was a

great supporter of public education, always opening his home to teachers needing room and board.

In those days, Sunday worship was never missed, regardless of the weather or it being harvest time.

"Grandpa would get up at 4:30 instead of 5:30 to make sure the cows were milked and the barn was tidy before church," she said.

Harvest time or not, work on the farm was out of the question on Sunday afternoons, said McKnight-Walker, as was knitting, card playing and reading for women.

"You couldn't twiddle your thumbs under the tree in the front yard," said McKnight-Walker, echoing her mother's description of the "oppressive" Sunday afternoons she spent at home.

Despite his sober nature, Keyes had a passion for farming, his animals, his family and his wife, she said. He also took particular joy in the fellowship of his church, so evident at potluck suppers, weddings and even wakes.

Eighteenth century Methodists were a people "consumed by the power in the Holy Spirit, they would stop at nothing to

spread the news of the Lord," said McKnight-Walker. "We need to recapture that passionate Methodist zeal today."

"I feel I'm on holy ground here today because this was the site of the first Methodist congregation in Maynard," she said.

Goldie Connell provided a colorful and entertaining history of the Wesleyan and Episcopal churches in the area and how they eventually united under one roof in the mid-1800s at Victoria United Church.

The Augusta circuit, like other church circuits, was a geographical region as large as 200 miles that was served by one minister, said Connell. The "circuit riders" or "saddlebag preachers" walked or rode horses between their churches, often preaching for four hours at a time to make up for the fact they could only visit most communities once a month.

Worship groups within communities, known as classes, consisted of 15 or 16 men who memorized vast amounts of scripture because few of them owned bibles, said Connell.

The church will be celebrating its anniversary on Wednesday evening with a harvest ham supper at the church at 6:30 p.m.

# The Augusta Pastoral Charge

81

MAYNARD

BETHEL



Dear Friends;

Advent and Christmas are fast approaching, and the Boards of Session of the Charge would like to invite you and your families to participate in the services of worship planned for this happy season.

We deeply regret that our resident minister, Rev. Janet K. Evans, will not be with us for this joyous time, and ask that you remember her in your prayers as she seeks to recover from a serious illness.

## SERVICES WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:

Nov. 27th - 1st Sunday in Advent. Mr. Campbell Stevens, Ottawa, will be with us to lead the worship.

Dec. 4th - 2nd Sunday in Advent. Mr. Stevens again.

Dec. 11th - 3rd Sunday in Advent. Rev. Robert Lockhart, staff member of Montreal/Ottawa Conference, will return to conduct worship, and at Maynard, Holy Communion. Mr. Lockhart, who describes himself as the "ministers' minister", is constantly in touch with our Janet, assisting her through this trying time.

Dec. 18th - WHITE GIFT SUNDAY, in charge of the Sunday Schools. We are asked to bring gifts of non-perishable foods for the needy of this area who are helped from the Harvest Sharing Food Bank in Brockville. We are moved by scenes of hungry people in under-developed countries of the world, but often fail to realize that there are those in our midst who need our support as well.

"What, giving again?" I ask in dismay.

"Must I always be giving and giving away?"

"Oh, no", said the angel, looking me through,

"Just give until God stops giving to you!"

Dec. 24th - CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE, at Bethel United Church this year, at 7:30 p.m. We are pleased to tell you that Rev. H. Todd will lead the worship and dispense Holy Communion at that time.

Dec. 25th (Christmas Day) and January 1st (New Year's Day) There will be no services in order that families may celebrate the Birth of Christ and the beginning of a new year in their homes together.

Jan. 8th, 1989 - We hope that Janet will be returning to us by this time. If not, the Ministerial Committee will have arranged further supply ministers and services will continue as formerly.

IN THE MEANTIME, LET US COME TOGETHER IN GOD'S HOUSE TO GIVE THANKS AND PRAISE FOR OUR MULTITUDE OF BLESSINGS IN 1988, AND SEEK HIS CONTINUING LOVE AS WE GO INTO A NEW YEAR.

*Arnald C. Mitalfe*  
Clerk of Session, Bethel

*prepared by  
Goldie Abounell  
in absence of  
Rev. Janet Evans  
on sick leave*

*Melba Deulencia*  
Clerk of Session, Maynard



December 17, 1989

**GATHERING TO HEAR THE WORD**

*Lianne Labranche*

**GREETING**

*Sarah Jane Hough Lynne Allaby*

Leader: As we wait for Christmas, we gather to hear and then proclaim this good news - "Be strong do not fear; Your God will come." (Isaiah 35:4)

All: We gather and we give that others might see the glory of the Lord through us.

Hymn of Approach: Candle, Candle

**Opening Prayer:**

Leader: O God of shepherds and sheep, of mangers and cattle, you blessed our earthly life by giving yourself in Jesus.

All: Inspire us now, God, to bless others as you have blessed all of us in Christ.  
Amen.

**Announcements:**

Hymn: O Come All Ye Faithful 415

**Prayer of Confession:**

Leader: Sometimes, Lord our giving is self-serving.

*Goldie Cunnell*

Reader 1: Sometimes we give to get something back -

All: Lord, forgive our self-serving;

*Joan Hubbard*

Reader 2: Sometimes we give to make ourselves look good -

All: Lord, forgive our self-serving;

*Ted Jenkins*

Reader 3: Sometimes we give what we want instead of what the other person wants -

All: Lord, forgive our self-serving;

*Edith  
Jenkins*

Reader A: Sometimes we give money or other things to avoid giving our talents, time, or energy-

All: Lord, forgive our self-serving;

Leader: O God, you gave yourself in Jesus.

All: Help us learn to give as you did in the Bethlehem stable and on that Calvary hill.

Amen.

**Assurance of Pardon:**

Leader: We are assured that healing begins the moment we confess the wrong we have done, or the right we have not done. We are assured in the name of Jesus Christ Redeemer that we are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God.

**Sunday School Program:**

*Alma Gibson + Allan Gibson  
Nora Jenkins  
George Jenkins  
Dale Conlin  
Lori Worden  
Elizabeth Jenkins*

Hymns: #421, #405, #408, #416

Offering:

**Prayer of Dedication (in unison):**

Lord, in these gifts we reach out to the sick, the hungry, the poor, and the lonely. We give these, Lord, in the same spirit you gave yourself in Jesus Christ.  
Amen.

Hymn: Joy to the World

**Sending Out&Blessing:**

Leader: When you go, you leave your gifts behind you. But you take with you the greatest gift you have to offer - yourself. Be generous with this gift, and you will live the Word.

All: We go, to be living Words ourselves. And may the grace of God go with us and be known through us.

Amen

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Christmas Eve service -7:30 in Maynard. Morning service at the regular time. (Session is reminded to attend the Christmas Eve service as there will be communion.)

Sunday School Pot-luck supper tonight at 5:00 pm with a visit from a special guest.