

CHURCHES AND CEMETERIES

CHURCHES

BAPTIST CHURCH

Baptist worshippers who settled in McGillivray Township from 1853 to 1862 formed a congregation and built a church on Lot 8 Con. 8 ECR. Land for the church and cemetery was donated by elder Alex Cathro. However, in 1870 this congregation joined the Parkhill Baptist church.

BETHEL CHURCH

This church, formerly located at Lot 18 Con. 8 WCR was on land known as "The Mark Settlement". In 1852 Henry Mark Sr. brought his family from Cornwall, England, to settle in this area. He purchased 1,100 acres from the Canada Company and, with his wife, ten children, one small granddaughter and a nephew, he arrived by corduroy road and Indian trail to settle on the property.

Travelling preachers were the only religious teachers available, but on a piece of the Mark property the early settlers built a small church called Bethel Church and began worshipping there. What remains of the Mark family cemetery is still at this site.

BRINSLEY UNITED CHURCH

Brinsley United Church is very unique in that it has been involved twice in union and once in amalgamation. The present congregation stems from three branches of Methodism — the Wesleyan, the Primitive and the Bible Christian. The congregations of West's Church and Marr's Hill were Wesleyan, the Ebenezer congregation was Primitive, and those members of the Eden Church who became associated with Ebenezer following the closing of their own church in 1903, belonged to both the Bible Christian and the Wesleyan tradition. In 1884, all three branches of the

Methodists were joined to form the Methodist Church of Canada.

The following churches helped form Brinsley United Church:

- West's Wesleyan Methodist Church (1876 — 1911) located on the 7th Con. ECR served the district from Mud Creek to almost the Ausable River;
- Ebenezer Church which served the people on Con. 4;
- Eden Church built in 1878 on Lot 4 Con. 10, with its shed located across the road on Lot 4 Con. 11 on land donated by James Pedlar.
- Marr's Hill Church built in 1865 on Lot 16 Con. 11.

Brinsley Methodist Church was dedicated on January 22, 1922 — a magnificent new red brick church with five beautiful memorial windows — the congregation compiled of worshippers from Marr's Hill and Ebenezer congregations (which had previously been strengthened by the transfer of members from Eden and West Church).

Upon church union in 1925, Brinsley Methodist Church became known as Brinsley United Church. Brinsley was connected with Crediton and Shipka but after church union became a three point charge with Ailsa Craig and Carlisle, where it remains today.



Brinsley United Church, 1963. (Courtesy of Clare Paton)

A special Centennial service was celebrated at Brinsley United Church on Aug. 27, 1967.

The first wedding to take place in the church was that of Olive Lightfoot and William Baker in 1926.

The United Church Women's group is still very active in supporting the church. Each year since 1965 they have held a chicken barbecue for as many as 700 people, the proceeds being donated to the church treasury, to assist with upkeep and general expenses.

CALVARY METHODIST CHURCH

In 1860 Primitive Methodists were meeting in Calvary Methodist Church at Brazil's Corners on the 20th Concession. This log building was later replaced with a frame building; however, the church was closed in 1891.

CENTENARY METHODIST CHURCH

The Centenary Church was built in 1866 under the trustee board of Wesleyan Methodist Church of Canada. One-quarter acre of land was purchased from John Shoults and another from Gilbert Carter, Lots 8 and 9 on Con. 6 WCR, for \$200. Centenary cemetery was adjacent to the church. This church closed in 1936, and in 1954 the cemetery was cleaned up with the help of the Women's Institute. A cairn was built in 1949 and the stone markers gathered and cemented into a platform. The church was sold to Ross Whiting to be used for a chicken house and shed on Lot 9 Con. 7 WCR.



Centenary Church Con. 6 WCR. (Courtesy of Marguerite Orr)

CHRIST CHURCH

Christ Anglican Church, built in 1868, was a landmark at the corner of Con. 2 and Mooresville sideroad. Rev. William Davis, the rector, con-

ducted the first baptism on Aug. 22, 1869 when Frederick William Richardson was baptized. On Sept. 22, 1869 Mr. Davis officiated at the first marriage, that of Elsie Cooney and James Menell. The first burial on record is that of Elizabeth Corbett, who was buried in Neil's Cemetery a short distance from the church. In 1884 Bishop M. S. Baldwin officiated at the first confirmation service in the church. In early years rectors at Christ Church also served at Ilderton, St. George's in London Township, Brinsley, and Ailsa Craig. Later Ailsa Craig, Brinsley and Christ Church became one charge. Christ Church closed in 1951 and was moved to a new location between Centralia and Huron Park where it still stands as Faith Tabernacle.



Christ Church Con. 2 (Courtesy of Regional Collection, U.W.O. Library)

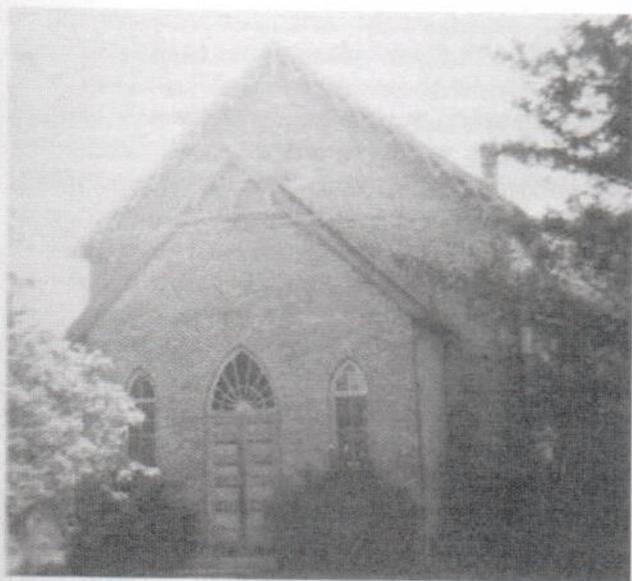
CLANDEBOYE UNITED CHURCH

Wesleyan Methodists worshipped in Clandeboye Methodist Church on Lot 20 Con. 1.

During the 1850's when the northwest part of Biddulph and the northeast section of McGillivray were being settled, church services were held in the Union School at Lewis Corners, located one and a quarter miles north of Clandeboye. This log school served as a Church and a Sunday School. Here people of all denominations worshipped together, but later, congregations were organized and churches built at Nursery (Canada Methodist) in 1861, at Clandeboye (Wesleyan Methodist) in 1865 and at Fraser (Presbyterian) at Mooresville in 1870.

In the early years of its history, Clandeboye Methodist congregation formed part of the Devonshire circuit, as did Lucan and Nursery Methodist, two and a half miles north of Clandeboye. When

Clandeboye Methodist Church was built in 1865 it was served by the Devonshire circuit. However, in 1870, Clandeboye, Lucan, Nursery, Ebenezer, West Corners, Marr's Hill and some other small charges transferred to the McGillivray circuit with Ailsa Craig as the centre. In 1877 an attempt was made to organize districts and conferences, and in 1878 the churches of Lucan, Clandeboye and Nursery were placed in the Stratford district, Guelph Conference. However, in 1898 the area was again reclassified, this time as the Exeter district, London Conference, which lasted until church union in 1925.



Clandeboye United Church. (Courtesy of Betty Coughlin)

In 1902 the frame church was moved across the road, and its structure strengthened by adding brick veneer. The interior of the church was remodelled and redecorated in 1963.

At a meeting in April, 1985, it was felt that a decision must be made about the future of Clandeboye United Church. Over the years the numbers and support had been dwindling. These facts and the need for extensive repairs led to a decision being made on May 12, 1985, to close Clandeboye United Church and amalgamate the congregation with Lucan United Church. The last service in Clandeboye United Church was held on June 23, 1985.

CORBETT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Corbett Presbyterian Church was built in 1887 on the northwest corner of Lot 35 NB McGillivray. The first service was held on March 28, 1888. The first Holy Communion service was served by Rev.

S.A. Carrier to 150 worshippers. Sunday School was held continuously from 1888 until church union with Greenway Methodist Church in 1925. Rev. Carrier was moderator of Grand Bend and Corbett Presbyterian Churches until 1922. He was succeeded by Rev. A.M. Grant. At a service held at Greenway Methodist Church on June 27, 1926 the two church membership rolls were bound together to form the Greenway United Church of the Grand Bend Pastoral Charge.



Corbett Presbyterian Church. (Courtesy of Marion Larmer)

Corbett Presbyterian Church was razed the next year and the pulpit and pulpit chairs taken to Greenway United Church. The seats were used in the shed when there was entertainment and other church materials were auctioned. Sheds were purchased by Len Allen and Wilbert Young. W.T. Ulens bought the shed nearest the road for the Corbett Creamery and they were all moved from the property with Chidley Woodburn's tackle.

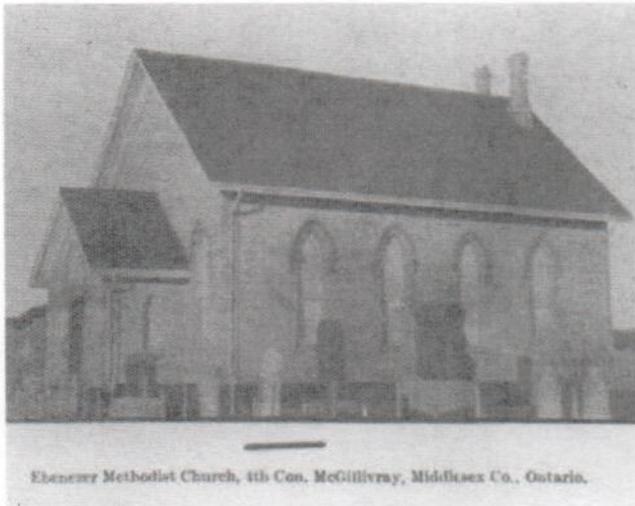
The property reverted back to Lot 35 NB and social events that played a very special part of this congregation came to an end.

EDEN CHURCH

Eden Church, built in 1878 at Lot 4 Con. 11, was part of the Wesleyan branch of Methodism. It was part of the Crediton charge. However, in 1903 Eden church was closed and the members from Stephen Township transferred to Crediton Church while McGillivray members chose to attend Ebenezer Church.

EBENEZER CHURCH

Ebenezer Church had its beginning with a group of worshippers on the 4th Con. of McGillivray Township who first met in the home of Thomas Fisher, directly south of the site later chosen for the building of the church. This church had hewn sills, and was built in 1860 on the southwest corner of the Fenton farm, site of the present cemetery. This church was served by a minister of Negro descent who rode horseback from London every two weeks for services.



Ebenezer Methodist Church, 4th Con. McGillivray, Middlesex Co., Ontario.

Ebenezer Methodist Church Con. 4. (Courtesy of Clandeboye Institute)

In 1881, the frame church was replaced by a brick church which stood for nearly 40 years. A shed was erected across the road from the church. The congregation increased when Eden Church on the 11th Con. closed and most of the members transferred to Ebenezer. The cemetery on the same property was first used on Nov. 23, 1882, upon the death of Rev. Clarke's wife. Rev. Clarke was minister of the church at that time.

Ebenezer was an appointment of the Carlisle circuit of the Primitive Methodist Church with the minister living in Carlisle. This arrangement lasted for many years; however in 1884, when the union of the Methodist Churches in Canada took place, Ebenezer became an appointment of the Crediton circuit.

The church closed in 1919 and provisions were made for perpetual care of the cemetery which is still in use today. Ebenezer Cemetery has a mailbox containing a visitors' book so that people visiting the cemetery can sign their names. Memorial Services are held at Ebenezer Cemetery each summer.

GRACE ANGLICAN CHURCH, GREENWAY

Grace Anglican Church, now located at Lot 39 NB McGillivray Township, had its earliest beginnings in 1860 in the home of Mrs. Ann McPherson, who gathered the children, regardless of creed, into her home for Sunday School. The services moved from here to the school at S.S. #10. As the Methodists were already meeting in the area it was decided in 1868, that all would move to the Loyal Orange Lodge Hall at Greenway and the Methodists and Anglicans would meet on alternate Sundays. Rev. Johnson from the Parkhill Parish was the first Anglican minister.

This arrangement lasted for ten years and in 1878, the Anglicans decided to build their own church. Under the supervision of Rev. Johnson of Parkhill Parish, a church and shed to serve twenty-five families were erected on land donated by James Brophy. Thomas Jennings sawed all the lumber used for the church, as well as adding to the membership by transferring the Anglican children meeting in his home. Most of the stone for the foundation was from Lot 31 NB, where Vince Thompson now resides. The brick was purchased in Crediton and all the material was placed on the grounds free of charge. The church was named "Grace Anglican" after Grace Brophy, daughter of James Brophy who donated the land.

Some of the dedicated families were Thomas Jennings, Wm. Hickey, Gus Hayter, Thomas Hayter, J. B. Hodgins, Robert McLinchey, Sam McLinchey, Joseph Carruthers Sr., J.R. Wilson, Wm



Building the second Grace Church, Greenway, 19 (Courtesy of Ruth Dixon)

John Baker, Rufus McPherson, Thomas Bullock, James Brophy, Richard Hodgins, John Berney, Henry Hawker, George Hodgins, Wm. Hodgins, David Edwards, Wm. Thomas Hall, John Corbett and Robert Gardner.

The average offering over the following years, to keep the church operating, was \$5.20 per family per year. In 1902 a Garden Social and Harvest Supper for the church realized a total of \$96.35. In 1903, the minister, Rev. Berry received \$200.00 for his services and Thomas Bullock received \$20.00 for janitorial services.

At a meeting on April 21, 1908 a decision was made to rebuild the church. On June 10th the contract was awarded to Wm. Miller for \$974.00 and the building was to be completed by November of the same year. This church was dedicated on Dec. 6, 1908. Three hundred and seventy-five people attended the two services that day. The first baptism was Dec. 27, 1908 when Laura Hodgins (Mrs. Murray Rowe) was baptized.

A hall located above the shed served for many years as a community centre, the rent being \$4.00 with heat and light included. In the 1950's the hall and shed were considered unsafe and since everyone now had a car, the building was demolished. Plans were made to build a Parish Hall (28 ft. x 56 ft.) east of the church and on Sunday, June 2, 1956 Rev. Luxton dedicated the Parish Hall.

In 1983 Grace Anglican Church celebrated its 75th Anniversary. However, due to the decreasing number of parishioners, the church closed on June 30, 1985.

GREENWAY UNITED CHURCH

The history of Greenway United Church started in 1860 when Ann McPherson held Sunday School in her home at Lot 41 NB McGillivray until a hall was built where Greenway United Church now stands. Her home finally became too small to accommodate their needs and the services were carried on in the schoolhouse at S.S. #10, Stephen Township, one and one-quarter miles north of Greenway. In 1868 the Methodist Episcopal Church held a meeting in Henry Shank's bush where it was decided to use the Loyal Orange Lodge Hall situated at Greenway on the South Boundary of Stephen, 20 rods west of Con. 21 Stephen. This building was later used by James Geromette as a chopping mill.

In 1875 Mr. Henry Shank donated the ground for both a church and shed where the present Greenway United Church stands. The first minister was Rev. Bradshaw from Parkhill. The Anglicans,



Greenway United Church. (Courtesy of George and Adelle Mitchell)

with Rev. Johnson of Parkhill as their minister, used this new building on alternate Sundays.

In 1897 the present Greenway United Church was built. Today it is truly a United Church as its members include descendants of the first members of Bethel, Salem, Corbett and Greenway Methodist congregations and the two German churches.

A new shed replaced the original shed in 1927, with the present shed and attached kitchen built by William Mellen costing \$4,067.72.

The German Evangelical Church was located on Lot 41 NB. There are no records available.

The German Lutheran Church was located on the farm of Henry Battram (now owned by Morley Eagleson, SB of Stephen). Years later when the Centenary Church of the Parkhill Pastoral Charge and the Shipka Church of the Crediton Pastoral Charge were closed, several of their members joined with the Greenway United Church.

LIEURY UNITED CHURCH

In 1867 the first Presbyterian church was built on Con. 8 east of Lieury. The land was donated by Andrew Robinson. The present Lieury Church was built in 1880 on land donated by Alexander and Annie Smith. Lieury has been a rural charge with Parkhill since 1870, and since Church Union in 1925 has been known as Lieury United Church.

In 1928 the old church sheds were torn down and sold, and the present large steel shed was constructed. The Women's Missionary Society tastefully renovated and decorated the interior of the church. The congregation was now ready to welcome all who attended the Jubilee Old Boys' Re-



Lieury United Church. (Courtesy of Annie Rose)

union on Sunday and Monday, Aug. 10 and 11 of that year.

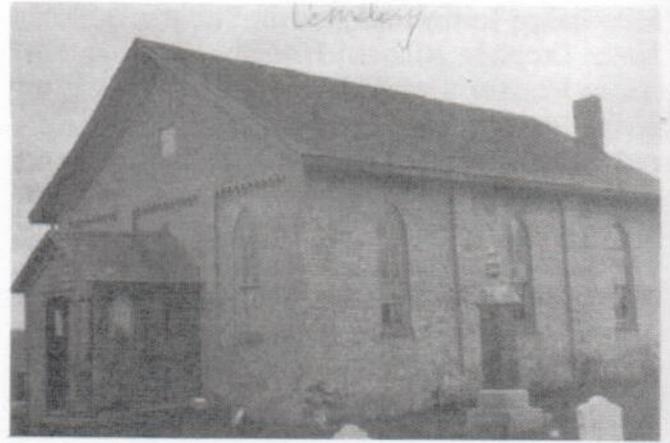
Lieury United Church was 61 years old before a wedding was performed in it. The first couple to exchange marriage vows in the church was Dorothy Amos and John Given in August 1941.

A beautiful memorial window was unveiled on Nov. 10, 1946 at a Sunday afternoon service in memory of George Frederick Patterson. Pilot Officer George Patterson lost his life while serving in operational duty off the coast of British Columbia on Nov. 14, 1944. The church was filled to capacity with friends and the Parkhill Canadian Legion attended to pay tribute to this young man.

A basement was placed under the present church in 1950. Lieury United Church celebrated its 100th Anniversary on Aug. 3, 1980. On that occasion the guest preacher was Rev. John Barrett, who had been the minister there when the church celebrated its 75th Anniversary in 1955. On Sunday afternoon, "Lieury's 100 Years" was depicted in a slide-picture-presentation by members of the congregation. *Lieury United Church closed in 19 and sanctioned off, and is now a private residence.*

MARR'S HILL METHODIST CHURCH

The Marr's Hill Church was built in 1865 on Lot 16 Con. 11. It is recorded that, prior to this time services were held by saddlebag preachers in kitchens, barns, and open fields. Later, services were held in the schoolhouse across the road from the present Marr's Hill Cemetery, and then in the newly erected school, which was built where part of the cemetery is today. The school was used as an interdenominational building, with the Wesleyan Methodists worshipping in the morning, the



Marr's Hill Church near Brinsley. (Courtesy of Carl and Orpah Trevithick)

Church of England in the afternoon, and the Primitive Methodists in the evening.

The church was built on land adjacent to the school, and near the cemetery. Marr's Hill Cemetery, at this time, was the only cemetery in the area back to Lake Huron. The first burial at Marr's Hill took place in 1852.

MT. PLEASANT METHODIST CHURCH

In 1860 George Clarke donated two acres of land on Con. 17, McGillivray Township, one and one-half miles north of Lieury, for the purpose of building a church. The church, of brick construction, was built in the early 1860's by local residents who were pioneer farmers, with the help of local bricklayers. The balance of this land was used for a cemetery, first known as Carmel Church and Cemetery.

Before an organ was purchased, James Darling led the singing with his tuning fork.

The church closed in 1914 and was sold in 1920.

NURSERY CHURCH

Nursery Church and Cemetery were located on Lot 11 Con. 1, McGillivray. George Shoults purchased the 1/2 acre of land from James Darrach and presented it to the Methodists in 1853. Mr. Shoults' first wife was the first person buried in this cemetery. Later Mr. Shoults and his second wife were buried there. Mr. Shoults had a large nursery of all kinds of fruit trees, from which nearly all the orchards in this vicinity were started, and so it was decided to name this church, Nursery Church.

Nursery New Connection Wesleyan Methodist Church was built in 1861. The lumber for the

Cemetery at Lot 13 Con. 6 WCR. Parkhill Cemetery is located at the northern edge of the town on property that was originally part of McGillivray Township.

The half acre for the Lewis Cemetery was deeded from William Lewis and his wife, Jane, in July 1848 to be used as a school, church, and cemetery. The earliest recorded burial is of Elenor Lewis in 1847. In 1963 a large memorial was erected in the centre of the lot, "In Memory of the Pioneers of This Community".

The Neil Cemetery is on land originally owned by Alexander Neil. The earliest burial is of Alexander Neil in 1867.

The Christopher Lewis Cemetery was started as a family burial ground before there were any church cemeteries in the area. The cemetery was restored in 1963 when the area was cleared of trees and brush, the stones placed upright in a central cement base, and a cedar rail fence with a gate built around the area. The earliest recorded burial is that of Mary, daughter of Anthony and Elizabeth Lewis, who died June 6, 1849 at the age of 6 months.

Meadow Hill is also referred to as Delancy Cemetery. The half acre was bought from William Delancy in 1872. The stones have been embedded in cement in the centre of the cemetery.

CHURCH GROUPS

The organizations affiliated with the churches in the township have long played an important role in the well-being of the church. In 1991 these groups are just as dedicated, as they continue to help by funding special projects, doing missionary work, helping with pastoral work, sending donations to charitable organizations, etc. and always seeing that the expenses of the church are met. The United, Anglican, and Roman Catholic churches in McGillivray Township all have such organizations.

BRINSLEY UNITED CHURCH WOMEN

On Sept. 14, 1920 the Ladies' Aid of Brinsley Methodist Church was formed by Rev. R.A. Brook, at the home of Mrs. Thomas Lee. The first officers were Pres. Mrs. Bert Sholdice, Vice-Pres. Mrs. John Morley, Sec'y. Miss Mary Amos, Assist. Sec'y. Mrs. Dan Lewis, Treas. Miss Elsie Lewis, Organist Mrs. Thomas Lee, Assist. Organist Mrs. Fred Fenton, Chaplain Mrs. S. Tweddle, As-

sist. Chaplain Mrs. Joe Amos. The meetings were held the first Wednesday of each month. The ladies also helped defray interest on money borrowed by the trustees. In 1962 the Ladies' Aid and the Women's Missionary Society amalgamated to form the United Church Women. The U.C.W. has successfully sponsored a chicken barbecue each July for over 25 consecutive years. Officers for the 1991-92 year are Pres. Mrs. Marcia Trevithick, Treas. Mrs. Marion Hodgson, Sec'y. Mrs. Nola Lewis, Card Convenor Mrs. Marjorie Steeper.

CLANDEBOYE UNITED CHURCH

The Nursery Auxiliary of the Women's Missionary Society was organized in 1893 in the St. Mary's District. It would appear that some Clandeboye women met in 1892 to plan for a W.M.S., as the 1893 report stated that "Clandeboye-Nursery Auxiliary, organized lately, is ready for work". The 1894-95 annual report shows the names of the first officers as: Pres. Mrs. D. Cobble-dick, Vice Pres. Mrs. W. Williams, Rec. Sec'y. Miss Allie Hodgins, Corr. Sec'y. Miss E. Blackwell, Treas. Miss Ida Elliott.

The Life Members of the W.M.S. for the years of 1926-27 are shown as: Mrs. A. Paton, Mrs. W. Williams, Mrs. W. Northgraves, and Mrs. Robert Hodgins. In addition, there were 20 regular members. Projects for those years were quilt making, packing bales, flower sales, etc., with all the women working hard to pay their allocations to Missions.

The Women's Auxiliary, (W.A.) raised money to help defray the expenses of the church, by having strawberry socials, peach socials, oyster suppers, turkey suppers, ham suppers, bazaars, and quiltings. The 1949 membership roll of the W.A. lists 20 members.

The first meeting of the Clandeboye United Church Women (U.C.W.) was held in 1962 at the home of Mrs. Arthur Hodgins. The executive was Pres. Mrs. Wilmer Scott, Sec'y. Mrs. Rupert Williams, and Treas. Mrs. Alex MacIntosh. The U.C.W. catered to weddings, anniversaries, etc. as well as many other projects to assist the church. This group is now amalgamated with Lucan U.C.W.

GREENWAY CHURCH WOMEN

In 1875 it was decided to build a Methodist Episcopal Church, so the ladies quickly gathered together and on August 16, 1887 had a "Harvest Home Dinner" to help with the funds. The