

"These same visitors, young and old, crowded to the feasts following the illumination. For those days and times, the feasts were well attended.

"The tables were spread in the meeting house and served by white-robed girls, who hurried in with platters of roast lamb and veal, potatoes, bread and butter, cheese and plum cake, pie and tea, the hungry diners partaking while the band played outside on the green.

"The September and Christmas feasts were a little different from that of June as given above. At these feasts the housewives provided roast fowl, bread and butter, 'pound' cake, cheese, and cranberry sauce.

"The Davidites were a quiet and industrious people, and very devout. They all worked willingly when the Temple was built. The little body never asked for financial assistance outside of their own congregations. During the earlier years, it was the custom for a number to go to Toronto and Markham Township to hold Sunday services. David Willson was the only minister they ever knew, and he gave his services free.

"Any surplus above that needed to keep the church in repair was always given to the poor. Mr. Willson once wrote: 'Our wants are few and simple,' and the lives of the people proved the truth of this assertion.

"The little congregation—numbering at one time nearly 300—grew and thrived, living true, upright lives in the midst of the community, giving help to poorer ones about.

"The life of David Willson, the leader who had so roused and energized the people of the place that here in the wilderness schools were organized, music given a prominent place, and remarkable structures built, ended January 16, 1866, at the age of 87 years, 7 months, and 12 days.

"He was laid to rest beside his wife in the cemetery a mile south of Sharon.

"The society began to dwindle then, though for a time the eldest son of the preacher, John David Willson, read the services, making use of the sermons and hymns written by his father, but in a few years people moved away, and the society became extinct.