

Hutchinson, at whose home, a short distance north of Port Rowan, the declining years of the venerable servant of God and his devoted wife were spent. A number of their descendants are earnest Christians and respected members of the Methodist Church. Two are in the Christian ministry—Rev. George Neal Hazen, B.A., of London, and Rev. C. A. Procnier, M.A., of Revelstoke, B.C.

On February 28th, 1840, at the advanced age of ninety years, the veteran and heroic soldier of the cross passed to his reward. Rev. R. Corson was at that time superintendent of the Simcoe Circuit, which included the Long Point territory, and preached the funeral sermon. On July 5th of the following year, at the age of eighty years and eleven months, his beloved wife joined him in the heavenly home. The influence of the godly life of Major Neal still continues. There are yet living a few who remember him, and one at least who heard him preach, Mrs. F. Cope, of St. Williams, who although in her eighty-fourth year is a regular attendant at the church services.

In the spring of 1908 the Quarterly Official Board of the Port Rowan and St. Williams' Circuit, through the Simcoe District Meeting, memorialized the Hamilton Conference, with the hope that some action would be taken to perpetuate, in some suitable way, the memory of Major Neal, and as a result a committee, consisting of Revs. J. J. Liddy, M.A., Chairman of the Simcoe District; R. J. Elliott, S. J. Kelly, A. I. Terryberry, B.A., W. H. Garnham, and Messrs. J. N. Pierce and J. L. Buck, Esq., was appointed, with instructions to report at the next session of the Conference. This committee in reporting to the Hamilton Conference at its last session recommended as follows:

"That the memory of the Rev. George Neal, better known as Major Neal, the first Methodist preacher in Upper Canada, be perpetuated by the erection of a Memorial Church in the village of Port Rowan.

"That with a view to the erection of the said church, may we venture to suggest that our Conference contribute