



AVON

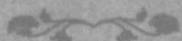


A  
Jubilee Souvenir  
of  
Avon Methodism

Embracing the years 1858 to 1908  
inclusive



Compiled and sold by the Ladies' Aid Society  
of the Methodist Church, Avon, Ont.

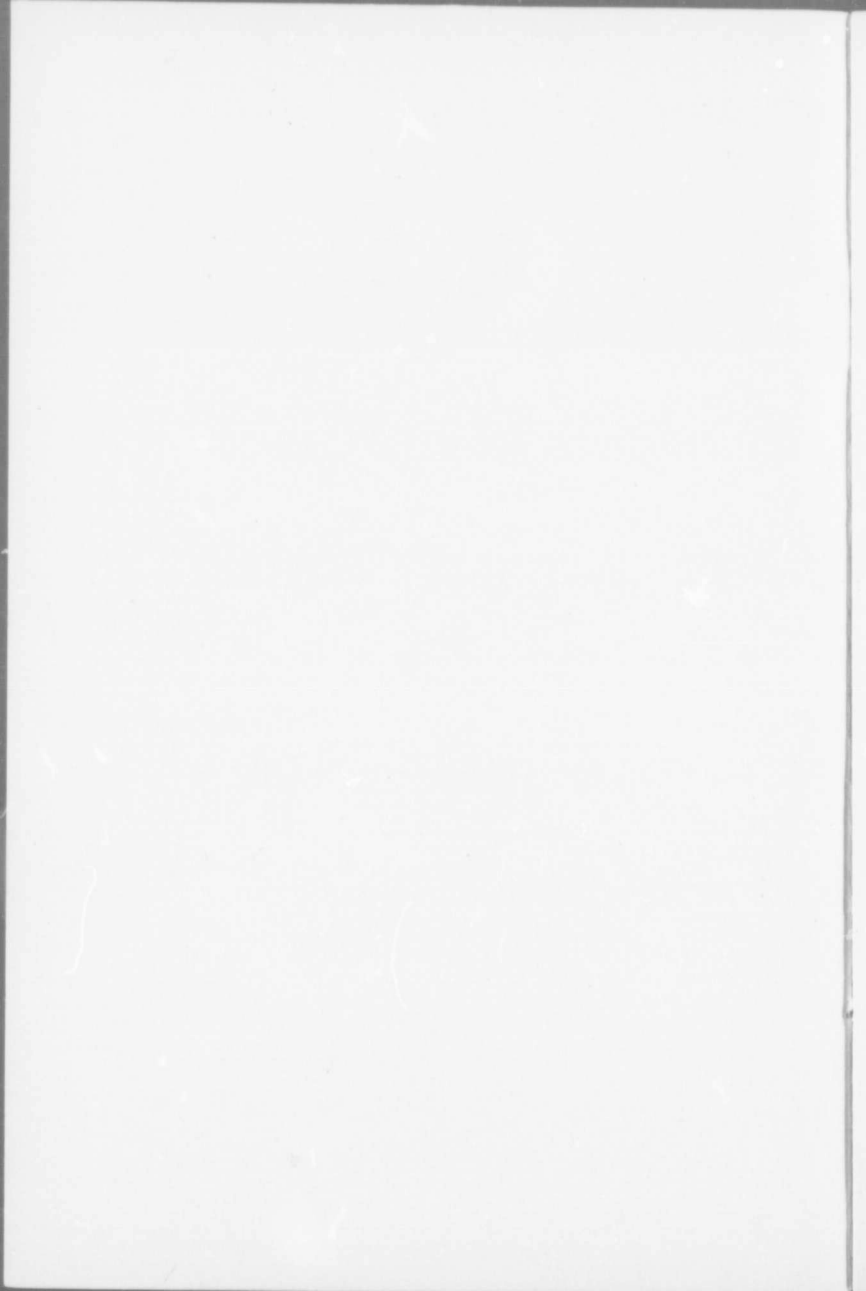


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JUBILEE SOUVENIR  
OF  
AVON METHODISM.





AVON, ONT.

DECEMBER, 1908.

TO ALL, GREETING.

**U**NDER the providence of Almighty God, by the untiring efforts of one of the most active ladies' aids in the Methodist Church, and the indefatigable efforts of a zealous trustee board, the circumstances which gave rise to the publication of this Jubilee Booklet were made possible. For many years we, as members and adherents of the above-mentioned church have been working disadvantageously, owing largely to lack of church accommodation. The church classes have been hampered, the Young People's Society hindered, and, above all, our Sabbath School, which has reached undue proportions numerically, has during these years forfeited the necessary facilities for carrying on its work.

At last, a long-felt need has been met in the form of a spacious basement, modernly equipped. In this we hope to do better work for God and the Church than that done under the former conditions. This addition has necessitated many changes in the church property, so that now we have almost a new church.

For all past blessings and success we, as a congregation, heartily thank the Great Head of the Church, at the same time trusting in the God of all Power for the future.

It is our earnest prayer that this booklet of reminiscences may be made a great blessing and comfort to all, either near or far, directly or indirectly connected with the proceedings which send it forth.

Yours in the Master's service,

RICHARD W. KNOWLES,

PASTOR.



THE CHURCH AS IT APPEARED FROM 1891 TILL 1908



THE CHURCH AS IT APPEARS NOW

## Historical Sketch

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The first meetings held under the auspices of the Methodist Episcopal Church were conducted in a log school house, situated on the north-west corner of the village. Mr. Whittaker, a venerable local preacher, was the first to hold such services.

In the fifties services were held in the school house situated near the hill at the north entrance to the village. The land on which the school house stood was owned by Mr. Peter Degroat. In this school house two ministers of the Wesleyan Church, named William and John Wesley Savage, preached periodically. These services were held in the morning, and were under the supervision of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

To Rev. W. D. Huston, a Methodist Episcopal minister, is accredited the organization of the first Methodist society.

In 1861 the first church was built. It was a plain frame and unpretentious building, about 44 by 36. Mr. Lyman Whaley was the architect and builder. The dedicatory services were conducted by Rev. Wm. Graham.

In 1875 the church was moved to the present site, repainted and remodeled, and new seats installed. This work was done by Mr. Lyman Whaley.

In 1891 the church underwent considerable reconstruction, consisting of a slate roof, stone foundation, brick veneered, new windows, orchestra, and entrance added. This work was done by Mr. Theodore Miller, and the re-opening services were under the direction of Rev. R. J. Garbutt, assisted by Rev. Dr. Burns and Rev. Michael Griffin.

In 1908 the church was raised, a basement built, the entire building repainted and to some extent remodeled. In connection with the re-opening this booklet has been compiled and printed.

# Pastors

## BEFORE UNION

|                         |          |
|-------------------------|----------|
| W. D. Huston .....      | deceased |
| Aaron Honsburger .....  | "        |
| Simon Terwilleger ..... | "        |
| Burness Bristol .....   | "        |
| Henry James Kilty ..... | "        |
| William Graham .....    | "        |
| Appleton Jones .....    | "        |
| Edward Lounsbury .....  | "        |
| M. A. Wright .....      | "        |
| William Benson .....    | "        |
| W. D. Huston .....      | "        |
| Henry James Kilty ..... | "        |
| B. C. Moore .....       |          |
| Nathaniel Dickie .....  |          |

## AFTER UNION

|            |                          |                     |
|------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
|            | Michael Griffin .....    | deceased, 1904      |
| 1883—1885. | John Reynolds .....      | " 1903              |
| 1885—1886. | Edwin Fessant .....      | superannuated, 1895 |
| 1886—1889. | Stephen Knott .....      | deceased, 1904      |
| 1889—1892. | Reuben J. Garbutt, LL.B. |                     |
| 1892—1895. | Robert Thompson          |                     |
| 1895—1898. | S. G. Staples, B.A. .... | deceased, 1900      |
| 1898—1900. | Charles Crichton .....   | superannuated, 1898 |
| 1900—1904. | George Buggin .....      | " 1905              |
| 1904—1907. | Joseph W. Pring          |                     |
| 1907—      | Richard William Knowles  |                     |

## Pastors and Sketches

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REV. SIMON TERWILLEGER

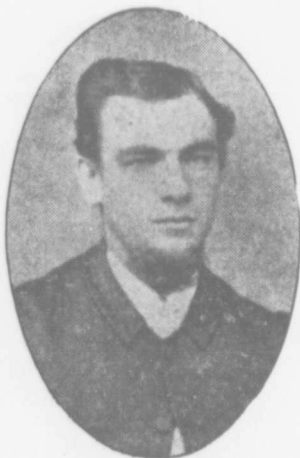


REV. BURNES BRISTOL





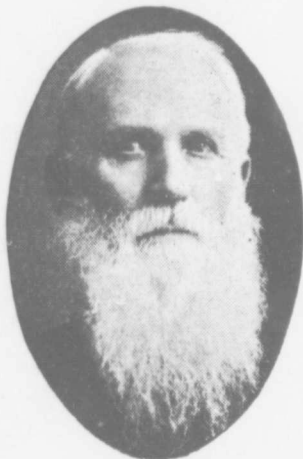
REV. HENRY JAMES KILTY



REV. EMERSON LOUNSBURY  
Junior Pastor



REV. HERMAN BEER  
Pastor's Assistant



REV. MICHAEL GRIFFIN



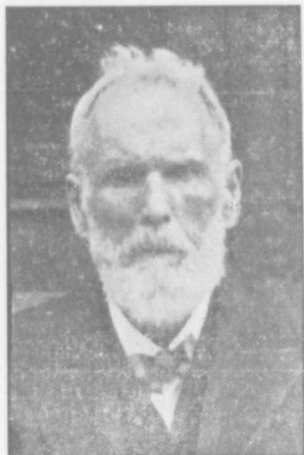
REV. STEPHEN KNOTT



REV. S. G. STAPLES, B.A.



REV. J. J. FERGUSON  
Junior Pastor



REV. EDWIN FESSANT

THE Rev. Edwin Fessant was born in Sheffield, England, in the year 1833. In 1842 he came to Canada with an uncle, and settled in Guelph. Subsequently he resided in Detroit, and it was here that he entered the ministry. In 1857 he was appointed to his first circuit at Kingsville, Ont. He also labored at Milford, Collingwood, Danville, Leeds, Newboro, Portage du Fort, Sarnia Indian Mission, Gorrie, Millbank, Centralia, Avon, Goldsmith, Indian Mission, Walpole Island, Ravenswood, and finally at Straffordville. In 1861 he married Miss Emily Williams, who died two and a half years ago. He was superannuated in 1897, and during the past ten years has resided at Sarnia.

THE Rev. R. J. Garbutt was born in Canada, of English parents. In the early days they moved to the Queen's bush, and took up and cleared a farm in the township of Peel. His youth was spent on the farm, but after coming of age he attended college, and entered the ministry in 1891. Later he graduated LL.B. at Victoria. All his ministry has been spent in the London conference, and he is now stationed at Petrolia.



REV. R. J. GARBUTT, LL.B.

THE Rev. Charles Crichton was born at Auchinlech, Ayrshire, Scotland, in the year 1847, and came with his parents to Canada in 1850. He was educated at the Public School, Woodstock, and at Rockwood Academy and Albert College, Belleville. In 1871 he was received as a probationer into the Niagara conference of the M. E. Church. His first appointment was to the Troy circuit. At the end of two years he was ordained deacon by the late Bishop Richardson. In 1874 he completed his conference course of study, and was ordained elder by Bishop Carman, now general superintendent of the Methodist Church.

The following circuits were travelled by Mr. Crichton: Troy, Brant, Springfield, Nissouri, St. Mary's, Humberstone, Ridgeway, Bienheim, Brantford, Portage la Prairie, Crystal City, Romney, Goldsmith, Malahide and Avon. While at Avon his activities were cut short by a breakdown in his health, and he was compelled to retire from the ministry.



REV. CHARLES CRICHTON

THE Rev. George Buggin was born in England in 1832, and came to Canada in 1857. He entered the ministry of the New Connexion Methodist Church in 1860, and travelled the following circuits: Durham, Omenee, Mauvey, Waterford, London, Seaforth, Mount Forest, Elora, Drayton, Markdale, Tara, Blyth, Wallaceburg, Brownsville, Avon, and Thedford, embracing a period of 46 years. He was superannuated in 1906.



REV. GEORGE BUGGIN



REV. JOSEPH W. PRING

THE Rev. J. W. Pring was born at Dunkeswell, Devonshire, England and spent his early boyhood there. In the fall of 1873 he came with his parents to Canada and the family settled in London. He was educated in London, and entered the ministry in 1880, being stationed at Dorchester, with the late Rev. J. L. Keir as superintendent. He was appointed to Victoria University, Coburg, in 1882, and ordained in 1884. He has held appointments at Attwood, Wellburn, Fordwich, Bluevale, Nile, Port Lambton, Thedford, and Avon, and is now stationed at Fingal. His wife is a daughter of the late William Philp of Maryboro township, and a cousin of Rev. Dr. John Philp at one time pastor of the First Methodist Church in St. Thomas and London.

**T**HE Rev. Richard William Knowles was born at Kinsale, Cork, Ireland, in 1872. He is the son of the late Rev. Robert Knowles, Methodist minister, of the Irish conference. He was educated in Ireland, and entered the ministry in his native land in 1893. He came to Canada and entered the ministry of the London conference in 1885, traveling the following circuits during his probation: Brooke, Windsor, and London. He continued his studies at Victoria University, Toronto, graduating in theology, and was ordained to the ministry in 1899. Since then he has been pursuing his M.A. course in honor philosophy at Queen's University, Kingston. He has travelled the following circuits: Tupperville, Crediton, Fullerton, and Avon.



REV. R. W. KNOWLES

**T**HE Rev. R. Thompson was born on a farm in King township, north of Toronto, and was educated in the public and high schools. He entered the ministry of the Methodist Church, and has held appointments at Mitchell, Wyoming, Chatham and Forest.



## First Trustee Board

Edward Hegler  
Lawrence Johnson  
Peter Whaley

Henry Willisie  
John H. Andrew

## Present Trustee Board

David Smith  
James Rowe  
George Goble  
William Henry Johnson

Harmen Dafoe  
Harry Clement  
John H. Andrew, Sec.-Treas.

## First Ladies' Aid Officers

President: Mrs. W. V. Nigh  
Vice-Pres.: Mrs. Wm. Dafoe

Secretary: Miss Eliza Rowe  
Treasurer: Miss Esther Andrew

## Present Ladies' Aid Officers

President: Mrs. W. H. Johnson  
Vice-Pres.: Mrs. James Joliffe  
Secretary: Mrs. Elston Dafoe

Treasurer: Mrs. Harmen Dafoe  
Organist: Miss Esther Andrew

## First Sunday School Staff

Superintendent: Wm. Glendenning

Teachers: Mrs. Lawrence Johnson, Mrs. John Wilson, Miss Charlotte Whittaker, Henry Herron.

## Present Sunday School Staff

Superintendent: H. W. Howell  
Asst. Superintendent: W. V. Nigh  
Sec.-Treasurer: Harley Joliffe  
Librarian: Clare McIntyre

Asst. Librarian: Murray Johnson  
Asst. Secretary: John Dafoe  
Organist: Miss Flossie Johnson  
Asst. Organist: Miss Clara Rowe

Teachers: W. V. Nigh, Harry Clement, Mrs. J. Rowe, Mrs. F. Bowes, Mrs. J. Swartout, Miss E. Rowe, Mrs. A. Cade, Mrs. H. W. Howell, Mrs. W. V. Nigh, Mrs. A. J. Herriek, Miss Annie Nigh, Mrs. Archie McIntyre, Miss Esther Andrew, Miss Maggie Cade.

## First Choir

|                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Leader: C. W. Hinds   | Alto: Esther Andrew   |
| Soprano: Mary Joliffe | Tenor: John H. Andrew |
| Nora Joliffe          | C. W. Hinds           |
| Mary Eleanor Whaley   | Bass: Richard Joliffe |
| Corintha Whaley       | Adam Hegler           |
| Nellie Trimmer        |                       |

## Present Choir

|                           |                             |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Organist: Miss Annie Nigh | Alto: Annie Nigh            |
| Soprano: Cora Nigh        | Tenor: Herbert Horace Wyatt |
| Ina Nigh                  | Bass: William R. Cade       |
| Stella Dafoe              | Charles Gilbert             |
| Flossie Johnson           | Harley Joliffe              |
| Mary Cade                 |                             |
| Pearl Pullin              |                             |
| Maggie Cade               |                             |
| Luella Rowe               |                             |
| Clara Rowe                |                             |
| Evelyn Clement            |                             |

## First Epworth League Executive

|                                   |                         |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| President: Miss Eliza Rowe        | Secretary: David Smith  |
| 1st Vice-Pres.: Miss Adella Nigh  | Treasurer: Herbert Nigh |
| 2nd Vice-Pres.: Miss Annie Parson |                         |

## Present Epworth League Executive

|                                 |                                 |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| President: Mrs. James Rowe      | Secretary: Miss Annie Nigh      |
| 1st Vice-Pres.: Mrs. Fred Bowes | Treasurer: Miss Maggie Cade     |
| 2nd " Mrs. H. W. Howell         | Organist: Miss Evelyn Clement   |
| 3rd " Miss Cora Nigh            | Asst. Organist: Miss V. Johnson |
| 4th " Miss Luella Rowe          |                                 |



## In Memoriam

### PASTORS

Aaron Honsburger  
 Simon Terwilliger  
 M. A. Wright  
 W. D. Huston  
 Henry James Kilty  
 William Graham  
 Appleton Jones

Edward Lounsbury  
 William Benson,  
 Michael Griffin, 1904  
 John Reynolds, 1903  
 Stephen Knott, 1904  
 S. G. Staples, B.A., 1900  
 John J. Ferguson, 1903

## In Memoriam

### MEMBERS

Susan Andrew  
 Harriet Degroat  
 Mary Eliza Johnson  
 Sarah Laur  
 Adalins Dafoe  
 Mary Hegler  
 Jane Scoffin  
 Margaret Joliffe  
 Mary Degroat  
 Nancy Melver  
 Esther Pallin  
 Harriet Lindley  
 Rebekah Smith  
 Ellen Sherk  
 Mary Eleanor Whaley  
 Mary Jane Miller  
 Sarah Ann Rowe  
 Edward Hegler

James Joliffe  
 Richard Joliffe  
 Henry Herron  
 Lyman Whaley  
 H. M. Willsie  
 Christian Hegler  
 John Scoffin  
 Frank Rowe  
 Theodore Miller  
 Thomas Parson  
 William Lindley  
 John Dafoe  
 Frank Joliffe  
 William Joliffe  
 Peter Whaley  
 William Monett  
 Andrew Pullin