

SOUVENIR BOOKLET
OF THE
Methodist Church,
Deseronto

== 1911-12 ==



Rev. G. H. Copeland, Pastor

The Methodist Church, Deseronto

THE OFFICIARY, 1911--12

Pastor—Rev. G. H. Copeland.

Stewards—E. Vandervoort, M.D., R.S.; P. M. Stover, Treas.; J. R. Stainton, Dr. J. C. Wray, H. W. Sager, Frank Van-Vlack, H. W. Kimmerly.

Society Representatives—C. R. Wager, Allen Oliver, G. E. Clement, Geo. Embury, A. N. Carscallen, J. S. Lyons, Sam Putnam.

Class Leaders—A. Reynolds, G. E. Pearson, J. W. Kellar, Byron Rose.

Sunday School—A. A. Richardson, superintendent; J. S. Lyons, assistant superintendent; Clarence Holmes, secretary-treasurer; Miss Jennie Dryden, pianist; Miss L. Parrot, superintendent of Home Department and Cradle Roll.

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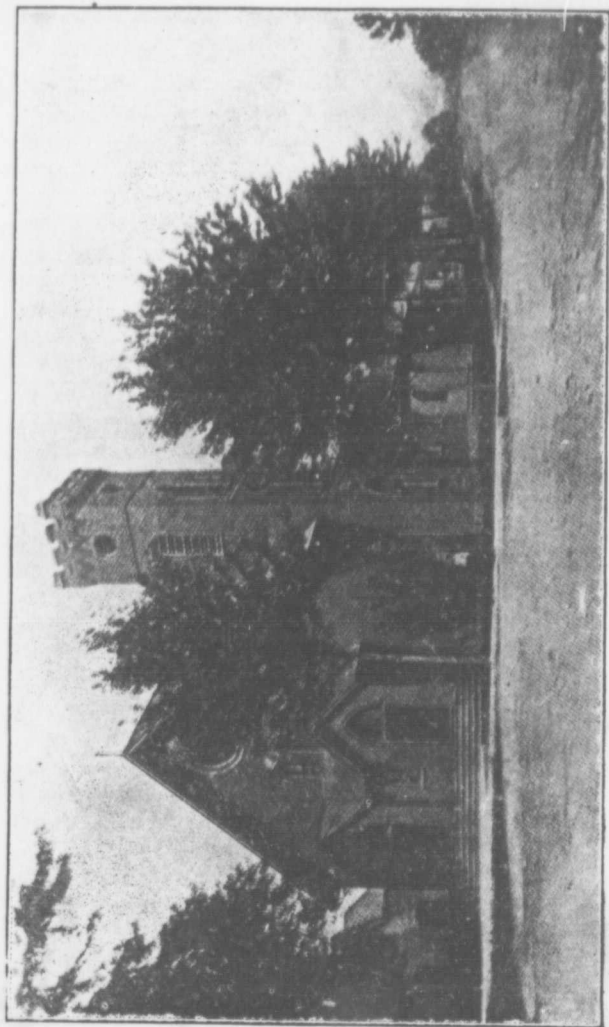
Junior Epworth League—Miss A. Hearnnes, president; Lily Littell, vice president; Roy Wager, secretary; Harry Young, treasurer; Ethel Cole, pianist.

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Women's Missionary Society—Mrs. G. H. Copeland, president; Mrs. H. W. Sager, vice president.

Short History of Deseronto.

Deseronto, Ontario, situated on the far-famed Bay of Quinte, in the south-east corner of the County of Hastings, is a manufacturing town. It was founded by the late H. B. Rathbun in 1848 on the site formerly known as Culbertson's Wharf, and called Mill Point. It was named Deseronto in 1881 after Captain John Deseronto, an Indian chief. It was incorporated into a town in 1889. On May 24th, 1896, it had a great fire, when nearly all the East Ward was burned and several hundred people were rendered homeless. But it was soon rebuilt better than before. It has had its periods of prosperity and depression, according to the activity of its industries. It has just passed through one of depression lasting three or four years, but is now beginning to flourish again. It is the seat of the Rathbun Company's industries, including lumber mills, sash factory, box factory, car works, locomotive works and machine shops. The Standard Chemical Company have an iron smelter making pig iron here, and the Dominion Match Company's plant is located here. Some of the industries have electric power. The town has electric light. Deseronto has the best deep water harbor on the Bay of Quinte, and vessels from the lake and bay ports call. The Canadian Northern Railway runs through the town, with connections with the Grand Trunk Railway and the Canadian Pacific Railway. There are four churches—Methodist, Presbyterian, Anglican and Roman Catholic. There are also good high and public schools and a public library. The Deseronto 'Post' supplies the news. Owing to its splendid location and excellent shipping facilities by land and water, Deseronto is destined to become an important manufacturing centre.



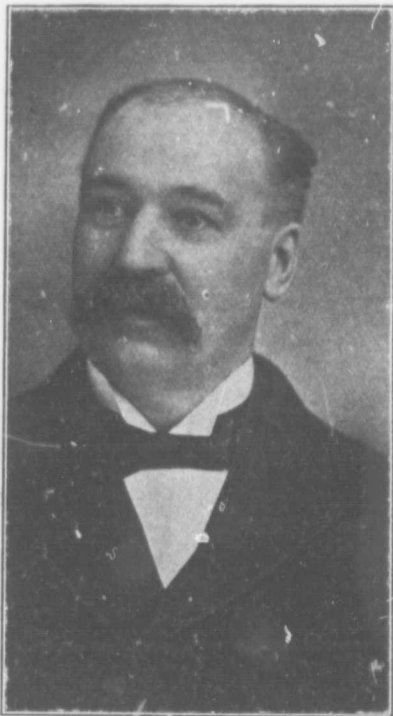
Early Methodism in Deseronto.

WESLEYAN METHODISM.

In the early sixties ministers of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, from Shannonville circuit, commenced preaching in Deseronto. When the Union Church, now called Union Hall, was built, the Methodists, Presbyterians and Anglicans held services in it in turns. Some of the ministers who supplied Deseronto were the Rev. Messrs. Might, Daxsee, Kilgour, Robinson and Ash; and the Bakers, Fergusons, Aylesworths, Richardsons, Bowens and Bradshaws, were among the leading families associated with the church and congregation.

EPISCOPAL METHODISM.

was introduced into Deseronto from Selby Circuit by the Rev. Mr. Barnett. The services were first held in the School House, now occupied by Mr. Meagher's meat shop, and later in a hall over Mr. L. Werden's store. In 1876 Messrs. Hall and Wigger, evangelists, held a series of evangelistic services in a temporary building, called a Tabernacle, erected on the corner where now stands Captain Barnhart's house. One of the results of this very successful meeting was the building of the present Methodist Church in the year 1877. Some of the ministers were the Rev. Messrs. Barnett (already named), Cornell, Burgess, Shorts (pastor when the church was built), Williams, Wilson and Mallory, who was pastor at the union of 1884. Some of the families associated with the church were the Walkers, Sniders, Wartmans, Conleys, Scrimshaws, Olivers, Barnharts, Browns, Rogers, Harbands and Rusks and Sagers. In 1884 the four Methodist bodies in Canada united, and formed what is now known as 'The Methodist Church.'



A. A. RICHARDSON

was born in North Fredericksburgh, and as a young man came to Deseronto entering the employ of the Rathbun Company, in what was known as 'The Big Store.' Here he continued for 25 years, the last 15 as manager. In 1899, Mr. Richardson began business for himself, on St. George street. He has been town clerk, member of the town council, and for many years chairman of the Board of School Trustees. In 1908 he was elected to the Provincial Legislature by a majority of 838. In January, 1885, Mr. Richardson was appointed superintendent of the Methodist Sunday-school, which position he has held ever since, honored and loved by the many hundreds of scholars of the school during those years.



G. F. SNIDER.

was born in Earnestown, and when quite young came with his parents to Deseronto in 1869. For 30 years Mr. Snider conducted a jewellery store on Front St. A little more than two years ago he moved to Vancouver, B.C., where he has a successful business in the same line. For many years Mr. Snider was a member of the High School Board. His native modesty led him to refuse civic honors which were repeatedly urged upon him. Mr. Snider was a most reliable and useful member and official of the Methodist church, but it was as secretary-treasurer of the Sunday-school for over 30 years he will be long remembered by the many hundreds who have, during those years, passed through the school. He was a member of the choir ever since the church was built.



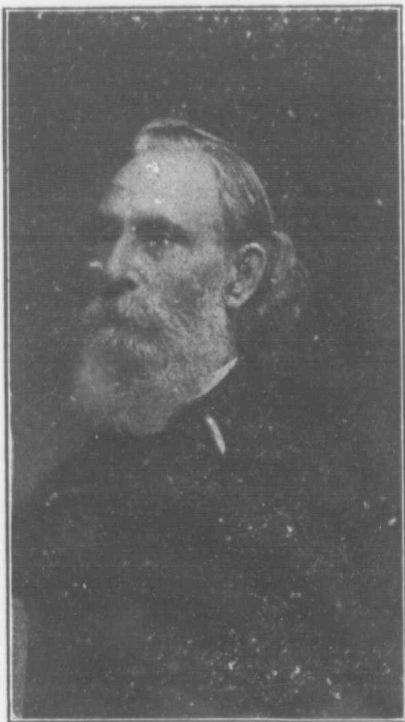
REV. D. O. CROSSLEY, 1884—7

As first pastor after the Union of 1884, Mr. Crossley was most successful in unifying the two congregations, the M. E.'s and the C. M.'s. His sanctified common sense, his knowledge of business life, his close attention to the details of church work and his practical preaching—punctuated as it was with attractive 'song-sermons,' made Mr. Crossley one of the most successful of pastors. The present parsonage was built in Mr. Crossley's time. In the midst of a very successful pastorate in the town of Whitby, Mr. Crossley was smitten with pneumonia, which resulted in his death on the 8th of January, 1909, in the 61st year of his age, and the 37th of his ministry.



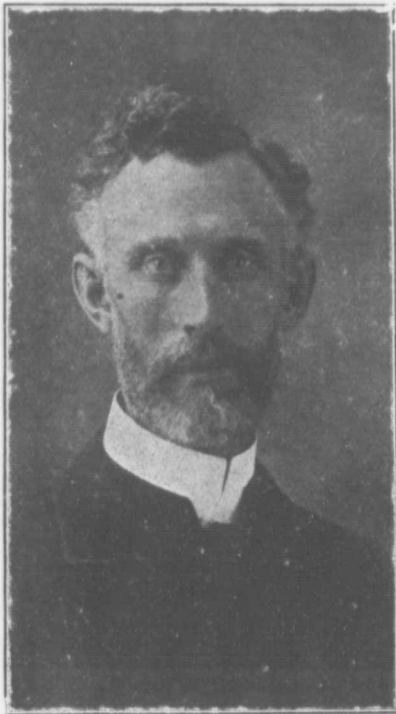
REV. AMOS CAMPBELL, 1887—90.

Mr. Campbell's term of three years in Deseronto was marked with great prosperity. The congregation increased to such proportions as to necessitate doubling the capacity of the church building. Mr. Campbell was a strong financier, and during his pastorate he instituted methods in finance to which the church still clings. Mr. Campbell has long been recognized as a most liberal contributor to the cause of God, and his example has been an inspiration to the people to whom he ministered. Hence his appeals for material aid to the church was always successful. Mr. Campbell was superannuated in 1894, and since then has, with his wife, one of the elect ladies, been living in the city of Belleville, enjoying the fellowship and confidence of a large circle of friends.



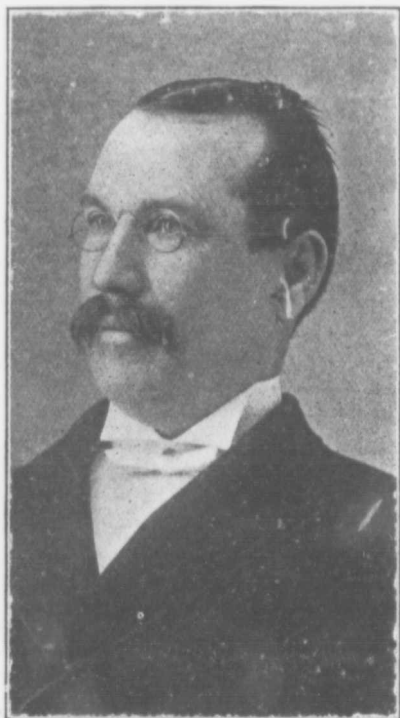
REV. J. J. RICE, 1890—3.

Mr. Rice was possessed of a striking personality and most unique individuality. His stately and soldier-like appearance, his suave manner, his adaptability to social and intellectual demands, and his strong, sympathetic nature, which was markedly manifest in the presence of sorrow and suffering, made Mr. Rice a great favorite with old and young. Mr. Rice was an untiring pastor, a cultured preacher, and a most pronounced advocate of the prohibition of the liquor traffic. Mr. Rice was superannuated in 1901, and with his devoted wife removed to the city of Toronto, where, in a cozy little home, 'Rest Cottage,' they were enjoying the eventide of life, when, while on his way to service at the General Hospital he was struck by a street car, and fatally injured. He died on Dec. 14, 1908, in the 79th year of his age, and the 45th of his ministry.



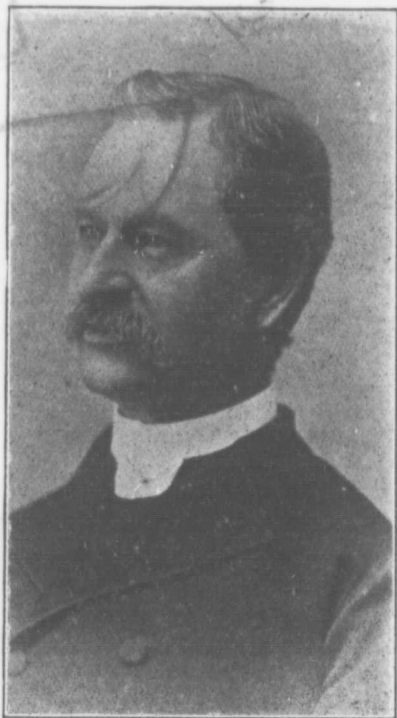
REV. ROBERT TAYLOR, 1893—6.

Mr. Taylor was a very godly man. His preaching was earnest, spiritual, and practical. He conducted a far-reaching revival during his term in Deseronto. There are many to-day, in different parts of the county, who remember Mr. Taylor's devotion to his work, his deep solicitude for the salvation of the unsaved, and the joy it gave him when souls were born into the Kingdom. Mr. Taylor's health was so uncertain, that the Conference of 1904 placed him on the list of superannuates for one year; but before the year was far spent, Mr. Taylor's end had come, September 27, 1904, in the 49th year of his age, and the 25th of his ministry.



REV. G. H. COPELAND, 1896—1901.

This pastorate was characterized by large congregations, large class meetings (18 in number), large prayer meetings, large Sunday-school, large Epworth Leagues, frequent revivals, old debt on church (\$1200) paid off, lot next to church lot bought, horse shed built, parsonage removed and enlarged, Sunday-school rooms built, the church renovated and remodeled, and a pipe organ placed in the church. What with a splendid Official Board, spiritual class leaders, capable and consecrated Sunday-school officers and teachers, devoted and efficient Epworth League workers, Christian fellowship and brotherly love in the church, and a ready and hearty co-operation with the pastor in all church work made this five years' term one of unusual prosperity.



REV. N. A. McDIARMID, 1901—4.

Mr. McDiarmid was a close student and brought to the pulpit the results of careful preparation, hence his pulpit ministrations were always thoughtful and edifying. Mr. McDiarmid had a lovable nature, full of brotherly sympathy, calm and deliberate in judgment, and, as a rule, safe in his decisions. Mr. McDiarmid was not a strong man, physically, and when he was seized with pneumonia, during a very successful pastorate at Madoc, he passed from labor to rest on the 23rd September, 1906, in the 60th year of his age, and the 39th of his ministry.



REV. A. J. H. STRIKE, 1904—8.

Although disappointed in not having their invitation to Rev. S. T. Bartlett honored by the Stationing Committee, Mr. Strike was very cordially received by the church and congregation. Finding the church, Sunday-school, Epworth League, and other societies well organized and officered by capable leaders, the successful pastorate of Mr. Strike was assured. Two revivals resulted in large additions to the Church, Connec-tional Funds were increased, and the pastor's salary advanced. In 1905 considerable injury to the church building was the result of a mysterious fire, but the damage was fully covered by insurance. In 1907 a widespread depression visited the town, causing many to remove to other places, and thus depleting the congregation about one-half. Mr. Strike greatly pleased his many friends on December 31st with able sermons in connection with the 'Home-coming services.'



REV. G. H. COPELAND, 1908—12.

After the lapse of seven years, Mr. Copeland accepted an invitation of the Official Board to return to Deserontø for the second term. Great changes had taken place in the meantime. The population of the town was reduced almost one-half, and the church and congregation about in the same proportion. At considerable self-sacrifice Mr. Copeland remained at the urgent request of the Board, from year to year, and is now completing his full term of four years. At the beginning of the fourth year, at the suggestion of the pastor, the Official Board undertook to lessen the debt on the church, with the results of paying off \$1,000 of the debt and this 'Booklet.' With less financial responsibility, and an increasing congregation, the next pastorate will have an advanced vantage ground.



REV. LOUIS S. WIGHT, B.A., B.D.

Mr. Wight received his preliminary education in the public school of Murray, the high schools of Trenton and Deseronto, Albert College, and Picton Model School. After spending a few years in teaching, Mr. Wight continued his education, taking his B.A. degree at Queen's University, Kingston, and his B.D. at Victoria University, Toronto. Mr. Wight carried off the first prize in oratory at Albert, and also at Victoria. In 1895 Mr. Wight entered the ministry of the Methodist church, and has already attained the reputation of being in the front ranks among the younger men. His sermons at the re-union services were of a very high order, and were listened to by large and delighted congregations.

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16

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ECHOES FROM AFAR.

We feel a kindly interest in the Deseronto Methodist Church, and often speak of the good times we had there.—A. E. and H. Wanamaker,

—

I wish you success in raising the money for the Church debt. I think your plan a good idea.—Martin J. Reid,

—

We are much interested in your plan for removing the debt on your church, and are pleased, herewith, to send our contribution.—Mrs. (Rev) D. O. Crossley and family.

I cannot tell you how often my heart turns back to the Deseronto Methodist Church, and to the good and helpful seasons I there enjoyed.—Mamie Brown.

I regret very much that it will be impossible for me to get home this year, when so many of my friends will be there at the church and proposed banquet. I wish you every success, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.—Frank Stainton.

There is still a warm place in my heart for everything pertaining to Deseronto and the welfare of the church, in which I spent so many happy years, in which there came into my life a strong resolve to live for the best things of life, which resolve still remains with me.—Kate Thompson.

My help is much needed here; however, as the Deseronto church affords me the most helpful recollections, I deem it a pleasure to, herewith, enclose my contribution with the hope that your project will be crowned with success.—Miss F. Mordeu.

I am glad to help the old church where I spent so many happy and profitable years.—R. H. Bogart.

Enclosed you will find our contribution for the noble end you have in view. We are looking forward to this unique undertaking with much interest, and hope to join you in the joy of Christmastide.—Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Henry.

In lieu of not being able to be present with you at your services, I wish to say I have a very tender regard for the Methodist church in Deseronto. I never was associated with a nobler body of men than such as A. A. Richardson, W. R. Ayezworth, G. E. Snider, J. L. Ferguson, Allen Oliver, Dr. Vandervoort, the Sagers, and others, in the Deseronto Church.—Rev. Amos Campbell.

Because of the heavy local demands this year, I am not able to subscribe as liberally as I would like to your most worthy cause. The church that has done so much for me and the Brown family, the church whose members have sacrificed and prayed for their sons and daughters who have gone from them, for her my heart overflows with gratitude, and as a small token thereof I send you this contribution.—F. C. Brown.

We will always have a warm place in our hearts for the many friends who mingled with us in church fellowship, in Deseronto, and assure you all, that our association with you was a spiritual blessing —C. W. Battrick.

No matter to how far distant lands my duty may lead me, or how seldom I shall have the privilege of returning to Deseronto, I shall always have a warm spot in my heart for the Methodist church there. —Guy Hudgins.

We are privileged to attend many good churches here (Toronto), but ever our thoughts go back to our home church, which has always been most dear to us and to which we owe so much. Our hearts go out in thankfulness to God that it was our good fortune to be reared in such a church. Seldom a Sunday passes that we do not wish we were in Deseronto to attend service there. —Pearl and Mabel Young.

I would like to be one of you at the banquet in the Methodist church where so many memories cling, and enjoy the good things the ladies of Deseronto can spread for a feast. I have carried many of the kind thoughts and wishes you gave me when leaving, especially 'The Lord will be with you, and no harm shall come nigh thee.' sung by the choir. Mrs. Snider, Marguerite and Clarence join me in wishing you all a Happy and Prosperous New Year. —G. E. Snider.

Mrs. Henley unites with me in the desire to be included in the list of former members of the Methodist church, Deseronto. Our recollections of residence in Deseronto are very pleasant, we enjoyed the fellowship of the church and the ministry of the pulpit. —J. E. Henley.

It would be very great joy for me to be with you at your congregational rally in the old church in Deseronto. The best years of my life were spent there, the happiest days of my life were in Deseronto. There I was led to God, and I have been kept by the grace of God, with my face turned heavenward. May God bless you in the future as in the past. —Geo. Gonyou.

We are sorry to say we will not be able to be present at your banquet. We are delighted to hear that the town and church are picking up. We are always glad to hear of the church in which I labored so many years and enjoyed so many of the Divine favors, is doing well. —Mrs. L. Werden.