

Jubilee Souvenir

1911



Methodist Church
Gorrie Circuit

Jubilee Services

Gorrie
Methodist
Church

June 18 to June 28
1911

The Object of these Services

TO render public and devout Thanksgiving to Almighty God for His wonderful blessings during the last half century to the people of Gorrie and Howick, and especially to acknowledge His Providence in the establishment and continuation of Methodism. Through Methodism scores and hundreds have found their way into the Kingdom of God. Let us continue to pray—

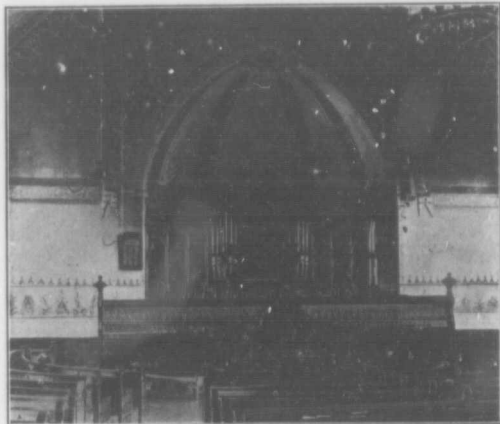
"Will Thou not revive us again, that Thy people may rejoice in Thee? Show us Thy mercy, O Lord, and grant us Thy Salvation."—Psalm 85:6, 7.

REV. J. W. HIBBERT,

Pastor.

R. H. STEPHENS,

Recording-Steward.



INTERIOR VIEW OF GORRIE METHODIST CHURCH.



CORRIE METHODIST CHURCH AND PARSONAGE



History of Methodism, Gorrie



"It is the Lord's doings. It is
marvellous in our eyes."

TRULY these words express our thoughts when we contemplate what God hath done in and through Methodism during the last fifty years or more. The settlement of the district where Gorrie now stands, (a part of what was then called "The Queen's Bush") began in 1852 when the Greer family came. In 1855 others came, among them the Strongs, Geo. Dane and two of the Leech family, James and Nathaniel. A year later the other eight Leech brothers came, 10 in all. Thus the village received its first name, "Leechville."

While Howick appears on the plan of "Grey Mission" in 1854, yet no Methodist preacher ever held service in Howick until May 1856, when Rev. Jas. Clark, a Wesleyan minister, came. The introduction of Methodism was in this way, towards evening on a Saturday in May, Mr. James Leech met a young man who enquired his way to Mitchell. He proved to

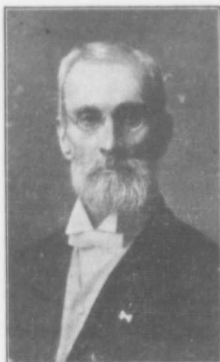


MR. JAS. LEECH

Who has been continuously a member from the first service.

be James Clark, a probationer, on his way to a District Meeting at Mitchell. Bro. Leech welcomed him to his home and agreed to entertain him over Sunday, Mr. Clark in turn promised to hold service on the Lord's Day.

The service was held in the home of Mrs. Greer. The congregation was composed of Mrs. Greer, her five sons and two of their wives, Mr. and Mrs. Besanson and some members of the Strong and Walker families and Jas. Leech. After preaching a Society was organized, with James Leech as Leader and H. Besanson as Steward. They were advised to hold class service every Sunday. The next Sunday no service was held as Bro. Leech could not face the responsibility. The following week after earnest prayer he secured the victory, the home was filled and the time profitably spent in prayer, testimony and song and at the service Moses Greer was soundly converted. The next Sunday three more conversions. Services were held until a regular minister was appointed, who upon his arrival found 40 names



REV. JOSIAS GREENE

Under whose pastorate present Church was erected and dedicated.

organized and in the month of December 1856, with H. Besanson as Superintendent, the Sunday School with such fruitful results was launched.

In 1857 to 59 Rev. J. Hough was minister and as the Public School was just built services were held in that building.

In 1859, Rev. D. Connelley was appointed pastor and the young church had grown so that they needed a home. Hence they decided to appoint a Building Committee and to build

on the Leader's class book.

In 1856, Rev. J. A. Dowler was appointed Pastor. Divine services were now regularly held in Leech's shanty at 10 a. m., and in the Fall of 1856 the first Quarterly meeting of Gorrie Circuit took place. It was held in the sawmill and conducted by Rev. Mr. Armstrong. At this service the first recorded infant baptism took place when two babes, Mary Donley and Ellen Greer were baptized.

It was during the pastorate of Rev. J. Dowler that the Sunday School was

so in 1860 the new church was an established fact. Now in these days we would smile, for while the church was solidly and truly built upon the site where the handsome brick church now stands, it had no seats or pews, no gallery only 4 plain walls. Blocks were used upon which planks were placed and without backs or cushions our fathers sat and worshipped God and glorious times were had. Later a commodious gallery was erected. In 1860 the Gorrie charge was enlarged and the circuit was constituted as follows: Gorrie, Gaugh's School House, Fordwich, Lakelet, Wroxeter, Bluevale and Belmore. Rev. Thomas Hadwin and Rev. D. Ryan were sent in charge.

Just about this time was the introduction of the Methodist New Connexion work under the pastorate of Rev. Thos. Jackson, now superannuated and living at Strathroy. The Parsonage was situated where the present Parsonage now stands while the Wesleyan Parsonage is the present home of our honored class leader, Mr. John Evans.

It was in the year 1861 that the first Methodist Camp



REV. J. FISHER
a former Pastor.



MRS. JAS. LEECH
President Ladies' Aid,
Gorrie.



REV. J. W. HIBBERT
Pastor.



MRS. (REV.) J. W. HIBBERT
President Women's Missionary
Society.

meeting was held in a field to the North end of the Village. In July 1861 from all parts of Howick they gathered and only Eternity will reveal the vast amount of good accomplished by these protracted field services.

From that day on the work of both branches of Methodism moved along with its varied experiences. Seasons of gracious revival were held, class meeting and prayer services were loyally sustained and Methodism became a power in the land. During the joint pastorates of Revs. Hawke and Kershaw an historic event happened, namely, the union of



MR. R. H. STEPHENS
Recording-Steward.

the Wesleyan and New Connexion churches and so far as Gorrie was concerned the consolidating of the Methodist forces as a result in 1874 the two Pastors preached in the same churches and a happy and harmonious spirit was developed.

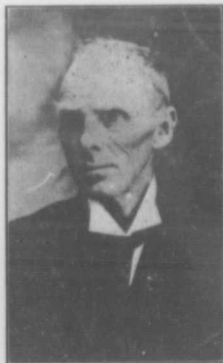
In one mind and with one accord Methodism went forward in 1875, under the leadership of Rev. E. Kershaw, with Rev. F. Swann and Rev. D. Rogers as his colleagues in '75 and '76 respectively.

Again in 1874 an event of unusual interest happened,

At the beginning of Methodism in Gorrie there were ten Leech brothers but during the years they became separated. In 1874 the ten brothers with their families were brought together in the Gorrie church and seasons of spiritual power were seen. Two of these boys have become honored ministers of our church and we hope to welcome them to our Jubilee.

In 1879 the present circuit was formed under the pastorate of Rev. Jas. Broley. Heretofore two ministers labored together since Union, but now Belmore was put into a circuit, Lakelet placed with Clifford and Orange Hill and Gorrie constituted a semistation. It is worthy of more than passing notice to say that during that time most happy and cordial relationships have existed between the two appointments.

In 1892 the present church was erected. During the pastorate of Rev. W. Torrance the start was made, although before his time it had been talked about. However during Bro. Torrance's term it was finally decided to erect a new edifice.



MR. A. D. STRONG
Sec.-Treas. Parsonage Trustee Board.



MR. W. H. GREGG
Superintendent of Sabbath School,
Gorrie

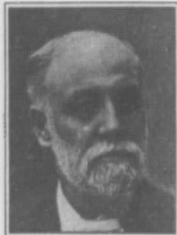
(which by the way is one of the most complete in its arrangements and handsome in its appearance) was opened and dedicated on Sunday the 22nd of January, 1883. Rev. Dr. Kelly, an old Gorrie boy, of Philadelphia, preached morning and evening. Rev. J. Livingstone delivered the discourse in the afternoon. The dedicatory services were conducted by the Chairman of the District, Rev. E. S. Rupert, M. A. Under the skillful pleading of Rev. Thos. Kelly, D. D., over \$2000 were

Just at the beginning Rev. Mr. Torrance failed in health and on the last day of June 1882, Rev. J. Greene came. The next day July 1st was corner stone laying. The memory of the business-like way and earnest spirit of Rev. Greene is fresh today and no small amount of credit for the success of the undertaking belongs to him. The stones were laid by Messrs. James Leech, Daniel Harris and Mesdames Cook and A. M. Carson. During the building of the church the services were held in the Town Hall. The present church

subscribed and the debt was entirely eliminated as a result.

Under the services of Misses Hall the church was visited by a wonderful revival and tales are told today of marvelous meetings held in the new church. Faithful pastors and loyal people have pushed along the old Gospel chariot from that day to this.

During the pastorate of Rev. H. W. McTavish the beautiful and up-to-date parsonage was built. A model in many respects it stands to-day as a monument of the zeal and enterprise of the Rev. Mr. McTavish. Thus from the line of equipment in churches and parsonage there are scarcely any superiors to the Gorrie field. The past is full of heroism and faithfulness. We have not been able to tell of the detailed work of each Pastor, class leader, and worker. Amidst discouragement they have toiled on and oftentimes the glory and the power of the Lord has come upon them. Scores and hundreds have found their way into the Better Land through the faithful teaching and preaching of Methodism and now under the leadership of Rev. J. W. Hibbert we desire to record our debt of gratitude to the men and women of the past and to acknowledge with devout thankfulness the goodness and mercy of our God.



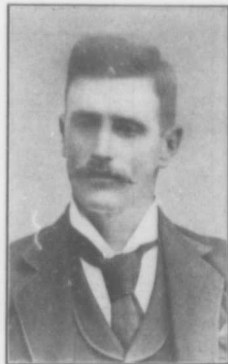
REV. D. ROGERS
One of former Assistant
Pastors.



ORANGE HILL CHURCH



MR. W. SIMPSON
Superintendent Sabbath School,
Orange Hill.



MR. W. G. STRONG
Secretary Trustee Board,
Orange Hill.

ORANGE HILL

THE history of Orange Hill church is largely woven into that of Gorrie circuit. Services were conducted in Orange Hall as far back as 1837. The meetings were held in the homes of Wm. Green and Hugh Howard. The log school house was built in 1857 and was the scene of services of both Wesleyans and New Connexion.



MR. REUBEN HARDING
Local Preacher and Class Leader,
Orange Hill.

Regular services however were held under the pastorates of Revs. G. Geddes and Thos. Jackson. In 1860, under the care of Rev. Mr. Tyndall, steps were taken to build a church. Mr. Hugh Howard gave the land and the church was begun. In 1870, while Rev. Mr. McKenzie was pastor, the church was completed and dedicated. The church has had glorious seasons of revival and while like all rural congregations has had its changes

and depletions, yet today it is hopeful and aggressive.

A loyal Sunday School has always been sustained under the Superintendency of Mr. Boddy, Daniel Harris, John Spotton, Samuel Howard and W. Simson.

On February 23rd, 1903, there was organized that splendid band of workers, the Ladies' Aid Society.

Mrs. Acheson Laird was appointed President, Mrs. W. Simson, Treasurer, and Miss Alice Edgar, Secretary. When Mrs. Acheson Laird moved to Fordwich, Mrs. R. Harding was appointed President. The Secretary and Treasurer have practically been in office since the beginning of the Society.

Class meeting is loyally sustained in this church. It makes the heart glad to see the large number tarry to class. Recently at a Reception service there were five families with three generations at church and in each case representatives of the third generation of these families were uniting with the church. Thus Orange Hill is maintaining its loyal and worthy history.



MRS. REUBEN HARDING
President Ladies' Aid
Orange Hill.

NOTES OF INTEREST

Rev. J. Hough, was twice pastor of the Gorrie Circuit—1857 and 1881.

Bro. James Leech is the only member of our church to-day who was present at the first service in Gorrie.

The first church Building Committee 1800:—R. Leech, E. Leech, C. Reilly, R. J. Johnston, G. Greer, G. Leech, J. M. Scott.

Rev. W. W. Leech and Rev. Dr. Kelly were both recommended for the ministry by Gorrie Quarterly Board in 1800. Hence they are in their Jubilee.

What a faithful Recording-Steward H. Besanson, of sainted memory, must have been—Recording-Steward from 1850 to May 5th 1890, thirty four years. Well done.

Rev. R. J. Garbutt, who opens the Jubilee services June 18th, 1911, has the honor of presiding over this circuit the longest term of any minister—five years—1808 to 1903.

In the early days church business demanded much time. In 1850 held Quarterly Board on Saturday evening and adjourned at 10 p. m. to meet at 7 a. m. Monday morning.

The W. M. Society is holding their Silver Anniversary. During Rev. Mr. Charlton's term the Women's Missionary Society was organized in 1885. Officers, Pres., Mrs. (Rev.) Charlton; Cor.-Sec., Miss Rodgers; Vice-President, Mrs. R. Ross, (who is still a member); Recording-Sec., Mrs. Wiles; Treasurer, Mrs. Pollock.

Among men who have gone forth to preach the Gospel from this circuit are,—W. W. Leech, George Leech, Nathaniel Smith, James Hazelwood, John Magwood, William Magwood, Thomas Kelly, John Scott, Andrew Latimer, Thomas Adams, C. C. Kaine, W. J. Ashton, Elmer Harding and two more preparing, W. Earnsey and Stanley Johnson.

Our "Epworth League" was first "Busy Gleaners" then became "Epworth League of Christian Endeavor" and now has the simple title "E. L." under the Presidency of Harvey Sparling. League work is pushing along.

Among the worthy men are our Recording Stewards, Hy. Besanson, W. S. Bean, W. J. Greer, Wm. Stinson, Alex. M. Hamilton, W. G. Knowlson, R. H. Stephens. The first three names occupied the position from 1856 to 1900 A. D. A fine record.

What memories and experiences the following men and women can recall:—Andrew Montgomery, Mrs. Ed. James sr., William Montgomery, John Evans, Wm. Andison sr., Ed. Pyke. We are glad to have these and other veterans with us still.

The Ladies' Aid my what would we do without this splendid Society. Organized in May 1860 by Rev. R. J. Garbutt. First officers, Pres., Mrs. E. Sparling; Vice-Pres., Mrs. Wm. Evans; Treasurer, Mrs. John Evans; Secretary, Mrs. R. J. Garbutt. The "Aid" is flourishing.

Methodism owes much to her splendid Local Preachers and Gorrie is no exception. Think of the following:—Henry Smith sr., Richard Darlington, Joseph Fawcett, John Scott sr., Peter Hepinstall, James Thomson, Mrs. Darlington, Arthur Magwood, Alex. Magwood, Robert Deachman, Mr. Dorland, Reuben Harding.

A word about the Sunday School, organized in 1856; it has been a source of strength and blessing to the church. Unfortunately we have not a connected record of her splendid work. Her first Superintendent was H. Besanson. Her present one, W. H. Gregg. He has a devoted staff and excellent work is being accomplished.

ROLL OF MINISTERS

Superintendents

- 1857—Rev. J. Dowler
 1858—Rev. J. Hough
 1860—Rev. Thos. Hadwin
 1863—Rev. E. Cragg

1860—Rev. J. W. Savage

1860—Rev. A. Milliken

1872—Rev. Hawke

Union of the Methodist New Connexion and Wesleyan Methodists, 1875. Rev. E. Kershaw held the United Board meeting July 31st, 1875, with H. Besaman as Recording Steward.

1875—Rev. E. Kershaw

1877—Rev. E. Pasant

1879—Rev. Jas. Brody. (This year Orange Hill and Gorrice became a Station.)

Probationers

- (Rev. D. Ryan . . . 1860)
 (Rev. J. Neillands . . . 1861)
 (Rev. T. Cullen . . . 1862)
 (Rev. L. Alexander . . 1863)
 (Rev. W. H. Maxwell . . 1864)
 (Rev. Hanson 1865)

- (Rev. A. L. Russell . . . 1866)
 (Rev. P. W. Jones . . . 1867)
 (Rev. Saunders 1868)

- (Rev. D. W. Thompson 1869)
 (Rev. Caldwell 1870)
 (Rev. McCarroll 1871)

- (Rev. Seley 1872)
 (Rev. Burns 1873)
 (Rev. Mooney 1874)

- (Rev. F. Swann 1875)
 (Rev. D. Rogers 1876)

- (Rev. G. Park 1877)
 (Rev. G. Greer 1878)

Superintendents (Continued)

- 1881—Rev. J. Hough
 1884—Rev. Charlton
 1887—Rev. W. Ayres
 1890—Rev. W. Torrance
 1892—Rev. Jos. Greene
 1895—Rev. J. Fisher

New Connexion Ministers

- Rev. Geddes
 Rev. T. Jackson
 Rev. Rawson
 Rev. Elliott
 Rev. Tyndal
 Rev. D. McKenzie
 Rev. E. Kershaw



REV. ROBERT FORBES, D. D.
a distinguished visitor who will preach
and lecture at Jubilee.



REV. DR. KELLY
Who will preach the Jubilee
Sermon.



Program of Jubilee Services



Sunday, June 18th

Opening Services, 10:30 a. m. and 7 p. m.
REV. R. J. GARRUTT, L. L. B., Petrolia.

Tuesday, June 20th

Epworth League Services, 8 p. m.

Thursday, June 22nd

Old Fashioned Prayer Service, 7:45 p. m.
Conducted by REV. J. GREENE, Clinton.

Friday, June 23rd

Jubilee Banquet, 5 p. m.
Addresses by REVS. DR. KELLY, DR.
FORBES, former Pastors and visiting
Ministers ; Music.

Saturday, June 24th

Love Feast and Fellowship Service, 7:45
p. m. REV. W. W. LERCH.

Sunday, June 25th

10:30 a. m.—REV. THOS. KELLY, D. D., L. L.
D., Philadelphia.
3 p. m.—Sunday School Rally.
7 p. m.—REV. DR. FORBES, Philadelphia,
Sec. of Home Missions and Church Ex-
tension, M. E. Church North.

Monday, June 26th

8 p. m.—Lecture. REV. R. FORBES, D. D.,
will deliver his celebrated lecture—
"Mistakes of the Devil and some
other People."

Tuesday, June 27th

Social Gathering at 8 p. m.
Song and Story by Visitors.