

BETHEL CEMETERY

Bethel Methodist Cemetery is situated on the east half of Lot eight, Concession ten, Township of Plympton and County of Lambton approximately one mile north of Camlachie and one half mile west of the Lakeshore Road on Concession ten road. Bethel Methodist Church was built on one half acre of land purchased 7 May, 1860 from William Longley and his wife Rhoda for five shillings. The deed was made out to George Schram, Henry Helps, John Richardson, Robert Walker, Reuben Trusler, William Brydges, Thomas Littleworth and Henry Rawlings. Witnesses to the transaction were Arthur and Alvah Trusler. The people of the vicinity met on the church site, had prayer together and then went into the woods, cut down and dressed the timber for the new church, which was framed like a barn, but was lathed and plastered on the inside. William Longley made and donated the altar rail and pulpit. Lyman Britton, who operated a sawmill at nearby Bonnie Doon, donated one thousand feet of nine lumber. "Uncle Joe Little was one of the speakers at the opening of the church. In late 1889 a new Methodist Church was built in the Village of Camlachie, a short distance south of Bethel Church along the railway. Bethel Church building was torn down and the materials used in the construction of the new church. The only surviving member of the original trustee board at that time was Robert Walker. In 1974 the Cemetery was very overgrown with weeds, trees and bushes. It appeared to have been vandalized and stones were piled in great disarray along the south fence. Most are broken and in very poor shape, some are partially buried. A later visit to this Cemetery in 1979 showed it to be cleaned as far as underbrush but nothing had been done with the stones. From older local residents it was learned that some of those buried here had been removed and reinterred at Beechwood Cemetery in Forest, Ontario. A local resident, writing of the history of this Cemetery for the local school history project stated that she believed the following people were also buried in Bethel Cemetery, although no gravestones bearing their names could be located. They were Herbert Richardson, Bertie Walker son of Robert Walker, Mrs. Charles Walker, Polly Schram sister of Frank Schram, Mrs. Henry Schram, William Longley, his sons William Jr. and Mark, also a son-in-law William Zimmerman, A. Cooper, William McKay, and William Brydges. The earliest recorded burial is that of ••••• Helps who died December 1860. The oldest burial recorded was Rhoda Longley who died 1879 at the age of eighty-eight. Seventeen stones were located and recorded. Since the stones were not on their original locations those which could be pieced together are listed alphabetically. Bits and pieces of more stones were observed so it is felt that this listing is far from complete. A map of this Cemetery would serve no useful purpose so none has been prepared. This Cemetery was recorded 2^d September 1974 and revisited November, 1979.