historically speaking

THE WAY IT WAS

The publication of

THE CASS CITY AREA HISTORICAL & GENEALOGY SOCIETY

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Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas to all !!

Monday evening, October 17th The Cass City Area Historical and Genealogy Society met for our annual Soup Supper and program. The Civil War, which began in 1861, is being recognized this year on its 150th anniversary. Our program on "Michigan in the Civil War" was presented by Al and Dave Eicher of Programs International. Thirty-two members and guests enjoyed the evening.

Our next meeting - along with the Friends of the Library, will be our annual **"Christmas Sing-along."** Once again, we will have Don Greenleaf at the organ with songs being led by Cathy Sullivan of Gagetown and Scott Mills. It is always an enjoyable gathering. We will start at 6:30, take a break about half way through for refreshments, and also to give our three musicians a chance to rest, and then finish the evening with more Christmas music. **Bring a friend and join us!!**

Katie Jackson, President

Our history trivia for this issue is the Deford Community Church.

Deford Community Church

On November 13th The Deford Community Church will celebrate its fortieth year. Several former pastors and members of their families, as well as former church members who have moved away, will be returning to participate in the reunion. The former pastors that are planning to come are Rev. Gerald Rodgers, Rev. John Motter, Rev. Stuart Roy, Rev. Greg Reynolds, and Rev.

David Mercer.

The church presently has 101 members and averages 190 worshipers in its Sunday morning services. The building complex sits on 20 acres of land and consists of a 650 seat sanctuary, a Christian school, a gymnasium and an educational wing.

The church was started in 1971 by a group of people from the surrounding area that wanted to attend a fundamental church. The first gatherings had an average attendance of 75, and met in the gymnasium of the former Deford Elementary School. Early in the following year Rev. Dale Sherry came to be the first full-time pastor. The first building acquired was the church parsonage located on 10 acres of land which was financed with offerings received from a special service.

After the parsonage was dedicated the construction of the first auditorium was immediately begun. Most of the labor in the building was done by members of the church who were skilled tradesmen, several of whom worked at the Marlette Homes factory at the time.

The church has had an active youth program from the beginning and eventually hired youth pastors to administer the programs. The young people have their own meeting facilities in the second story of the educational wing. In the early years the church also had an effective bus ministry until increasing regulations, insurance and liability concerns made it too problematic to continue.

As the church continued to grow, a two-story educational wing was attached in 1974, and the present auditorium was built in 1981. Then in 1998-99 an adjacent gymnasium complex was built, which contains a full sized basketball court, spectator seating, locker and shower rooms, a fitness center on the mezzanine and a commercial sized kitchen. The gym is not only used for athletics, but also for large scale social events.

In 1981 the church opened a K-12 Christian School, The Deford Christian Academy, in the former sanctuary area, which was remodeled and adapted for learning. The school draws students from a fairly wide area who want to attend a Christian School. The present enrollment includes 42 students.

The church began as a member of the Missionary Church denomination, but later elected to become an independent church. Several of its recent pastors are more associated with the Wesleyan doctrine.

The current pastor is Rev. David Cooper, who formerly served as the youth pastor. There is an active “small group program” which consists of several groups of attendees which meet following Sunday services to discuss the topics covered in the morning’s sermon. Other activities include a children’s Sunday School program., Wednesday night prayer meetings and topical educational programs, as well as dedicated youth programs. The church also has an active missionary support program.

Cass City Area Historical Society
Membership Dues 2011-2012

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