

STONEMILL ROAD:::

Little information on the Catholic Church that stood on the east side of Stonemill Rd. has been located, or passed on by word or mouth. From the records of the Methodist Church which stood nearby, we have the following:

The original clapboard church was built ~~some time after~~ 1835. In 1874 it was decided to replace it with a stone building. The owner of the stone quarry nearby, Mr. Vebelhoer asked the Trustees of the Methodist church if he could have the building, in exchange for enough stone to build their new church. This was agreed upon and the old church was moved ~~to~~ and became a place of worship for the foreign labourers who worked for Mr. Vebelhoer at the quarry. They were all of the Catholic faith.

In the early 1900's the church was hit by lightning and Louis Le Jeune asked permission to take the wood for the erection of his new home on the Garrison Rd.

Unfortunately I have not been able to find anyone that can supply the name of this Church, or the names of any of the priests who served there. A letter to the Carmelite fathers in Niagara Falls who were at that time serving the Mission of Fort Erie and Port Colborne, brought no results. Our own Church histories written at the time of the town Centennial, and at the time the new St. Michael's on Central Ave. was dedicated, also make no mention of there being a church on Stone Mill road.

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH::: STONE MILL ROAD: BERTIE. 1870's.

Little information has been passed down on the beginnings of this church, written or passed on by word or mouth. Most of it's history can be found in the history of the Baxter Church that stood by it on Stonemill Rd. In the middle seventees the membors of Baxters became interested in replacing their original frame building that stood on this road, and had served them since 1835. It stood on the east side of the road, north of the Dominion, and some distance from the old log cabin that had served as a meeting house and a schoolroom.

The owner of the quarry Nicholas Uebelhoer, struck up a deal with the Trustees of the Methodist E. Church. In exchange for their frame building he would supply them with enough stone to erect their new place of worship. He had a number of Irish and German labourers working at the quarry who were almost all of the Roman Catholic faith. his suggestion was agreed upon, and on the 26th. of Oct. 1874, he granted to the Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation of the Diocese of Toronto 27/100 acres of land: the North pt. of lot 12 in the 2nd. con.L.E. for \$1.00. The old church was then moved to this ,land but still on the east side of the road, north of it's original location. Tradition has the building moved to the west side of Stonemill adjacent the cemetery lot, but as yet no written record has been found.

As yet no record has been found as to the number of yearsthis church saw service. It seemed to operate individually from St. Joseph's in Fort Erie, which in the early years was connected to the church in Port-Colborne. A memorandum for lease datedAug. 13 1892, to permit a search for gas on tthis property does exist. It does however mention supply gas to the church on the Garrison in for Erie and for a rectory if one was built. The church stood empty for some time, no doubt when the workers left the Quarry. It was eventually hit by lightening and caught fire. Louis Le Jeune from afamily living in the area was given permission to salvage the lumber which he used to build his home on the Garrison,