

Excerpt from *Foundations of Faith, Carrying Place United Church*

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Fire raced through the little village of the Carrying Place in September 1906. Among the homes and businesses destroyed that Sunday morning was the Wesleyan Methodist Church.

The church had been built in 1836. A white frame structure, it was remembered by early residents as being very beautiful. A church shed stood out front and at right angles to it where the large congregation could shelter their horse-drawn carriages while they attended services.

Inside, there was an upstairs gallery where church suppers were held, the crowd waiting downstairs in the church for a turn to eat.

Myrtle Weller used to find the gallery a handy place to slip up to if she were late for church, which sometimes happened if she'd had to go and find the family cow.

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The early history of the church remains something of a mystery. The most popular belief is that the acre of land upon which it was built was given by the Biggar family, probably Charles who died in 1851.

An obituary in the *Christian Guardian* for Camilla Biggar, wife of Charles, notes that the Biggar home had become the rendezvous "for circuit preachers, the presiding elder, the passing missionary, and all itinerant ministers." The account notes that the most passable road from York to Kingston was by the Carrying Place and through Hallowell (Picton).

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After the fire, services were held in private homes or in Flindall's Hall which rented for \$1.50 per month. Services were held there every Wednesday evening and one Sunday per month. The Board had to furnish its own wood, oil, and lamps. Sunday School was held in the hall from 2:30 to 4 p.m. every Sunday.

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Rebuilding began in 1908: subscriptions were solicited. "The bearer is authorized to solicit subscriptions to build a church on the old stand at the Carrying Place."

James L. Biggar, son of James Lyons Biggar, M.P., donated five hundred dollars towards the building.

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From the late Cora Taft's memoirs comes the following, "I remember my husband Alva Taft and Clarence Quackenbush went to Morganston with his horse and the Quackenbush horse hitched to a lumber wagon, and brought back a load of seats to the Carrying Place for the little new Methodist Church. They had got new seats at the Morganston Church."