

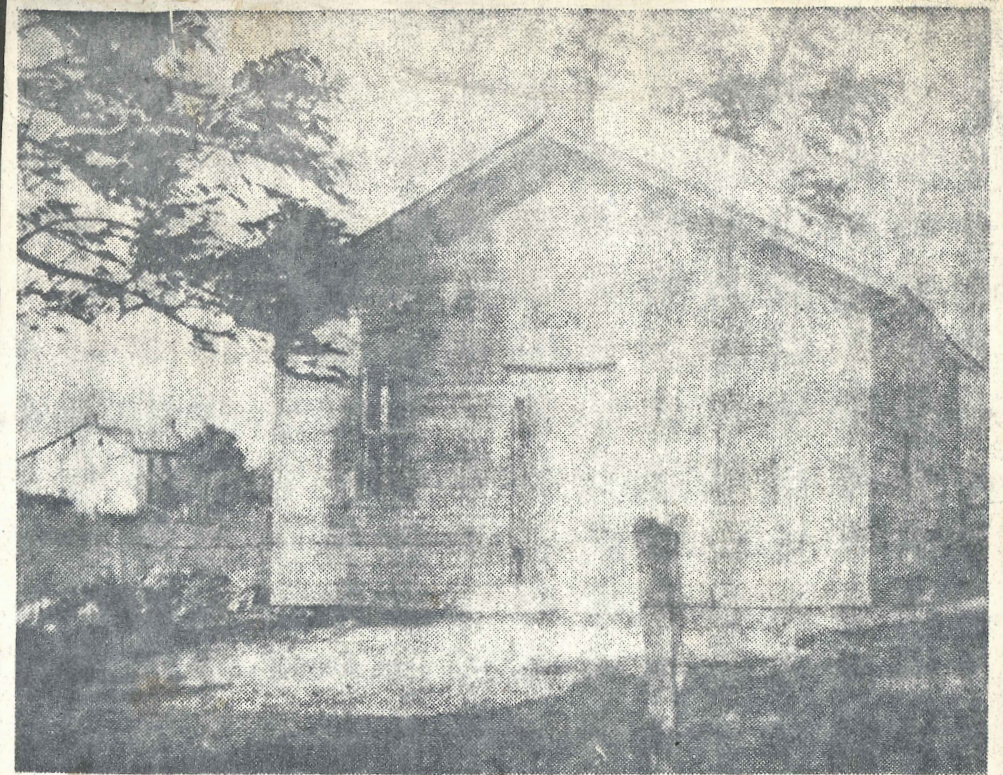
RIVER SIDE

The first church in the Willoughby area was the River Side Church built in 1824. In a subscription list of 35 names of settlers contributing money and material for a meeting house and school, 60 per cent of them were Mennonites who built this log church on the River Road, north of Black Creek. Twenty-eight pounds sterling was collected and one quarter of the money was needed for the purchase of a wood stove.

A Sunday School was organized here in 1826, only 40 years after the founding of Sunday School in England.

Jacob Miller, a Mennonite preacher and pioneer on the River Road was the first minister. This church was built for all protestant denominations, but as the Mennonites were in the majority they used it more regularly. The building served as church and school for many years.

A frame church was built later and moved to the adjoining lot about 1858. When the boulevard was put through the Niagara Falls Queen Victoria Park Commission moved the church farther back on a near-by side road, but left it standing without a foundation. It was never used again and finally demolished in 1914.



THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH — This was Willoughby Township's first church, school house and library. Built of logs in 1824, it was later clap-boarded and moved to the Sherk Road. It was dismantled in 1914.

(Photo courtesy of Miss Z. M. Miller, Willoughby)

THE RIVERSIDE CHURCH::: by Z.M. Miller.

The Riverside Church was erected by public subscription in 1824.

The first church was built of logs and stood on the south east cnr. of the Gonder farm. Names on the inscription list included:

Abraham Lapp: Joseph Danner: Jacob Gonder: Jacob Miller: