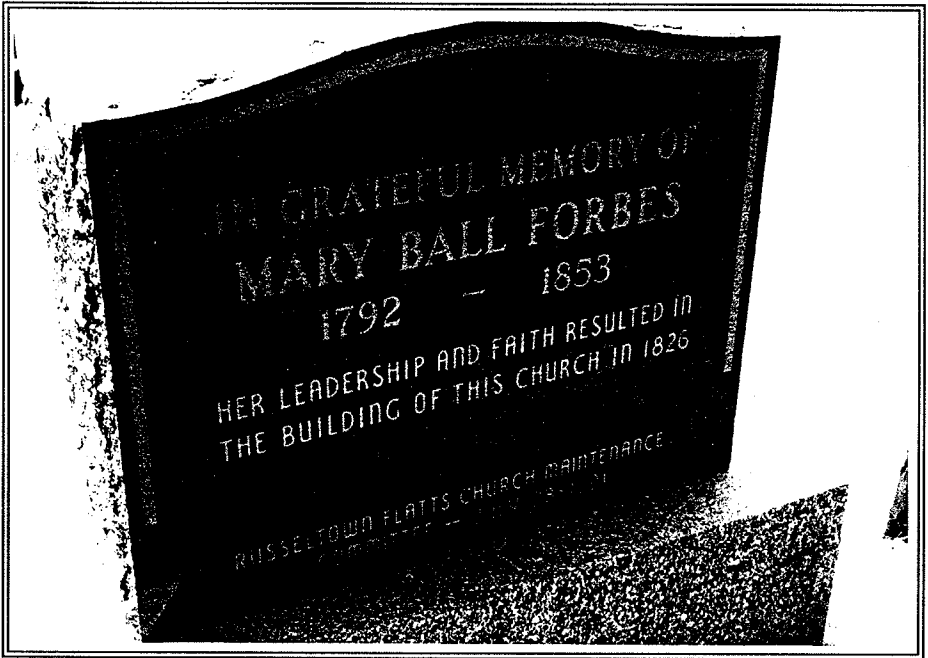


1826 - 1997

*I Have Laid the Foundation,
And Another Buildeth There On.*

1 Cor. 3:10



*The United Church of Canada
The Little White Church
Russeltown Flatts, Québec
171st Anniversary Celebration
Sunday, July 27, 1997*

*Rev. Birgit Neuschild, Hemmingford Pastoral Charge
Guest Speaker : Royal Orr
The Elgin & District Pipes & Drums
Music by : Scott Auchinleck*

The United Church of Canada
The Little White Church -- Russeltown Flatts, Québec
July 27th 1997 2:30 pm

WE GATHER TO PRAISE GOD

Organ Prelude: *Voluntary* (A. Blair)
Words of Welcome: --Rev. Birgit Neuschild
Prayer of Approach:
Hymn #163 *Christ is made the sure foundation*
We Listen to God's Word:
St. Luke 15 : 11 - 32
Organ Solo: *God is my shepherd* (A. Dvorak)
Guest Speaker:
"The Prodigal Son" -- Royal Orr
Hymn #17 *Praise my soul, the King of heaven*
Prayer of the People & The Lord's Prayer

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Announcements:
Maintenance / Cemetery Reports: -- Lyman Roberts
Offertory Anthem: *Be Thou my Vision*
Offertory Hymn: *We give Thee but Thine own,
Whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have
Is Thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from Thee. Amen.*
Prayer of Dedication:
Hymn #441 *Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah*
Commissioning:
Benediction:
Closing Solo *The Lord's Prayer* (A. Mallotte)

Collection was taken up by :

Jessica Barrette
Adrienne Aboud

Eric Barrette
Lucas Wood

Reminder to All! Kindly sign our guest book. If you include your address, it helps us to keep in touch.

Appreciation is expressed to all who have participated in today's celebration. An invitation is extended to all to enjoy refreshments following the service. Our thanks to Jean Pycock and all the volunteers who have contributed their talents to making and supplying the food.

Russeltown Flatts Church and Cemetery Committees

The annual meetings were held, and the financial reports were reviewed and accepted. Copies are available upon request.

Maintenance Committee

Major projects during 1997 included the scraping, sanding and painting of the front of the Church and the painting of the roof. Mr. Creswell removed one shutter during the winter season and did a complete restoration job on it.

Cemetery Committee

The sudden death of Gerry Rogers was a shock to our community. In 1988, Gerry compiled the valuable index to our cemetery's memorial markers. He hoped a map reflecting the current status of the cemetery would be developed. We are pleased that Elizabeth Churchill is looking into this project. If we proceed with it, it would be a fitting tribute to Gerry's memory.

Anyone with information, ideas or a desire to help is encouraged to leave their name with Elizabeth, or complete the enclosed response card which can be put in the offering basket or mailed back to us.

Mary Ball Forbes : 1792 - 1853

Mary Forbes was a young woman of 34 years who envisioned a church in her community. Robert Sellar's *History* refers to her "as being energetic, and fertile in resources. Money there was none, so she took subscriptions in butter, grain, lumber, and the like. Finally she had assembled trees to provide the timbers for the frame of the building. When she was able to provide the framer, the settlers turned out and raised the building and all the outside work was done by bees. The building was raised in 1826 but was not finished for some years."

The first entry in the journal Records of the *Congregational and Presbyterian Society* refers to the public meeting on July 15, 1833 when it was unanimously agreed by the building committee that the Church and Society at the Flatts be immediately settled under the title of "Congregational Presbyterian Society of Russeltown, L.C.". Those in attendance appointed a Board of Trustees and the first motion was "Resolved that Mr. Forbes be requested to get the church plastered as soon as possible". No doubt Mary had some input in getting the first resolution to deal with the finishing of the Church.

Much effort was put into founding this Church, and even more obstacles were conquered to finish it. Many hours of work have been required to maintain the Church for 171 years. Things such as keeping the roof and clapboards painted, repairing and restoring shutters, and continuing to trim the grass and trees are necessary maintenance activities. These might not seem to be major tasks, however we are fewer and much farther apart, and so even the simplest jobs can at times seem endless and impossible.

Like Mary, we must draw together our energy to ensure that her dream of this Church for the community remain as a testimonial to all who have passed this way. The gift of Mary was more than the idea and realization of this building, it was the inspiration for creating a gathering place for the people. The boundaries of this community have extended much farther than Mary would have ever imagined. When we come together for our anniversary service, we become a chapter in its story. We are all part of the community of the Little White Church, and each year when we celebrate its history, we are laying the foundation for its future.