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DAYBORO CHURCH.

The church at Dayboro was located at its present position from 1925. This church was part of the Upper North Pine Charge of the Presbyterian Church. The other churches in the Charge included Samsonvale Church and Closeburn Church. The main portion of the Church building was actually built in 1901 and was situated in the area known as Terror's Creek, on a block of land near to and north of the cemetery. That building was extended in 1905, and in 1925 was moved onto its present site in Dayboro. The Church hall was added in 1961.

The history of the Congregation of the Dayboro church extends back beyond the building of the Church. Regular Presbyterian Services were originally held in the Orange Hall on the corner of Mt Pleasant Road, and Lacey's Creek Road. This congregation built their own church on the land donated in Terror's Creek, and subsequently in Dayboro itself.

Reverend Watkins was the appointed minister who carried out his Pastoral duties on a borrowed horse. In 1894 the Church Committee were unable to afford the purchase of a horse and saddle. Until 1910 Ministers were obliged to find their own accommodation, and many boarded with families who belonged to the church. However in 1910, a manse was built in Dayboro. The problems associated with transport were continually significant and many a time a Minister had to rely on an animal's instinct to guide him home across unknown paddocks.

Sunday Schools were commenced in all the Churches in the Charge very shortly after the erection of the Church buildings.

The Women's Guild began at Dayboro Church in 1922 and minutes make numerous references to their activities...tea meetings, concerts, collections, Fete and flower shows etc. Women would appear to have been very active in the building up of the church.

Originally a Sanctioned Charge, the Upper North Pine area became one of Queensland's earliest Home Mission Stations. A list of the ministers who served the Home Mission is included on page 5 of the Centenary history booklet which is included following this brief introduction to Dayboro's history.

The life and witness of the Dayboro church has continued faithfully throughout the years of this century. A Centenary Service was held in 1973 to celebrate 100 years of Presbyterian witness in the Upper North Pine area. (It will be noted from the history booklet

that the Presbyterians erected churches at Short Cut, North Pine and Samsonvale between 1873 and 1900 so that a well established work was in progress when the Dayboro church was built)

The Church to-day continues with a vigorous community input .Sunday School, Women's Fellowship, Craft group, and Home fellowship groups are conducted by the church, along with regular Sunday worship services at 8.30 a.m.

DAYBORO CHURCH HISTORICAL ITEMS.

1. HISTORY BOOKLET PRODUCED TO CELEBRATE THE CENTENARY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN WORK IN THE AREA (1873)
2. HISTORICAL EXCERPTS & PICTURES FROM CANVASS BOOKLETS ISSUED in 1957 and 1962.
3. LEAFLETS ABOUT THE FETE & FLOWER SHOW.
4. OPENING & DEDICATION OF THE DAYBORO CHURCH HALL 1963
5. CENTENARY SERVICE 1973

UPPER NORTH PINE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
CENTENARY
1873-1973



In November 1845 Dr. J. Dunmore Lang presbyterian minister and Australian statesman, on a visit to what is now Queensland conducted the first presbyterian service in Brisbane. Dr. Lang, and the government surveyor Mr. Wade later visited Captain Griffin at the Whiteside station homestead arriving there on 10th. December. Captain Griffin his wife and sons had been members of Dr. Langs congregation in Sydney.

During Dr. Langs short stay as many as possible assembled at the station homestead for a service he conducted. Whiteside station was in Dr. Lang's words constructed of rough slabs on the side of a hill with the glen of the North Pine river on the right - near the present Whiteside crossing. This is the first recorded service in Upper North Pine and one of the first presbyterian services in Queensland. "Church of England" ministers Hassel and Spooner conducted services at the Samsonvale homestead shortly after this.

1368 - 1871 saw the station runs, Samsonvale and Whiteside opened for closer settlement with an influx of settlers from Britain and Germany. These people were accustomed to a close relationship with the Church and quickly moved to institute public worship. Firstly in barns and homes and later in slab buildings which served as school, hall, and church.

In the year 1873 it is recorded that Mr. F. Skerman of Rockangle, and Mr. C. Hay of Upper North Pine were ordained elders in the Church. As elders they were involved in the establishment of churches in the area first at Short Cut in 1873, North Pine 1884, Samsonvale 1887, Terrors Creek 1900 & Closeburn 1928.

The Short Cut Church situated near where the southern end of the North Pine dam wall now stands was constructed from pit sawn timber with shingle roof; measuring 20 feet by 25 feet it had six gothic type windows and the usual high pitched roof. It served first as church and later as church and school until 1915 when the school was closed and the building demolished. When church services ceased in the early 1900^s part of the congregation went to North Pine and others to Samsonvale. Our minister continued to conduct services in private homes of the area; notably "Skerman House" until 1936.

Although this was almost certainly the first church building in the area Mr. J. Skerman tells that his mother spoke of earlier irregular services in the barn at Whiteside station. His wife at the time a Miss Protheroe can remember a small folding organ used for services in the church, and stored in the corner during school days which was later collected by Mr. Adam Carson, one of our early committee men. Is this the history of the folding organ?

North Pine Church was built in 1884, and is certainly the oldest standing presbyterian church in the Pine Rivers and one of the most attractive. It has recently been listed by the National Trust as a historic building to be preserved. North Pine was part of Upper North Pine until 1898 when it began it's association with Bald Hills.

SAMSONVALE.

No doubt some Samsonvale people joined "The Short Cut" congregation in 1873. The little church was about $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the present Samsonvale Church on a track frequently used by them to get to North Pine (now Petrie) hence the name "Short Cut".

Mr. Percy Skerman in his book about the Skerman family states that student ministers from Brisbane conducted services, in the earliest stages, at Samsonvale. We know that these services were held in the first provisional school which was built 1875 only a few yards from the present Samsonvale Church. Mr. Henry Gold provided music on a harmonium.

As was common in those days most protestant families irrespective of denomination gathered to such pioneering christian services in an ecumenical witness which we might envy to-day.

The provisional school was abandoned later in favour of two smaller schools at more convenient parts of the district.

The people decided to build a church on land offered as a gift by H. Gold. Mr. Kitchner received the contract. Logs were hauled to a pit in the gully behind the church by Mr. L. Deitz's bullock team where it was sawn by hand - some of those boards are still in the building. Mr. 'Sandy' McKenzie split the shingles for the roof assisted by Mr. W. Hedge as one of his first jobs as a boy.

The opening was in 1884. A feature of the opening was a heavy storm which found some weaknesses in the unceiled roof, wetting the congregation. The first resident minister was a scottish migrant, Mr. William Dale, who bought land in Kobble Ck. area and combined farming with pastoral work.

At a later stage Mr. D. Watkins was appointed. He lived in a cottage lent or rented by Mr. W. Joyner at Samsonvale Cattle Station and rode one of Mr. Joyner's horses on his pastoral rounds. Minutes of 22nd. February, 1891 record that a Call should be made for Mr. Watkins appointment with a guaranteed stipend of £38 per quarter.

Church funds seem to have been very scarce since, when Mr. A.L.Laurie's name appears in minutes of 1894 the committee still could not afford a horse and saddle.

Finances were raised by quarterly subscriptions for a pledged amount. Church collectors were appointed to call on supporters. Samsonvale had three women doing this job at one stage. Another method of fund raising was by concerts and Tea Meetings - held at full moon to ensure light for horse transport.

Mrs. W. Joyner was the first organist till 1898 and followed by Miss J. Gordon for 11 years. Others were Isobel Sommers Annie Gold (who married Mr. C.D. Sydney) and Caroline Gold who served for about 40 years. In later years home missionary D. Brandon and Ian Richards played the organ as well as conducting the services while minister's wives and others frequently helped out.

The original building was renovated in 1913. Mr. C. D. Sydney was home missionary at the time and having architectural training drew the plans for what resulted in a very attractive, lined and ceiled church. Renovations cost £163 - and were carried out by Mr. P. De Hayre.

Early attendance was about 60. This dwindled till about 1895 and reached a peak of about 90 persons at 11 a.m. Sunday service between 1900 - 1918.

The congregation had a choir which met for practice and social activity weekly. There was also a branch of the temperance organisation "Band of Hope". Sunday school functioned throughout till finally a lack of numbers together with available transport to Dayboro warranted closure in 1969.

A youth fellowship functioned at various times but predominantly from 1947 till 1961 during which Mr. C. N. Hedge bore most of the leadership responsibilities. Woman's Guild was started in 1916 and continued till 1958. As so often is the case the Guild was a major source of money raising for church expenses.

When the old provisional school of slabs and shingles was sold at "The Basin" Mt. Samson, the church bought it for £7-0-6d and it became known as The Basin Cathedral. Services were held regularly till it was finally sold in 1919.

In 1949 the old Miller kerosene lights were replaced by a pump up, petrol system and these were in turn replaced by electricity in 1953.

The cemetery which is often associated with the church is in fact a public cemetery and was first used at the relatively recent date of about 1921.

In 1957 the North Pine Dam scheme was announced. Immediately it was obvious that this would affect church affairs. The surveyed water line stands about 50 yards below the cemetery and church but families supporting the church began to leave the area. Services lapsed finally in 1969. During the lapse in services the church was broken into and the organ, communion table and chairs (in honour of church pioneers) christening font, collection plate and several small articles were stolen. The land was bought by the Brisbane City Council in 1973 for \$3,500, 100 years after the opening of the Short Cut Church.

A committee formed by a public meeting in the Terrors Creek Orange Hall in 1898 engaged Mr. J. Bond to build a church and records the cost as £135-6-6d (\$270-66). Opened in 1900 it was built on land donated by Mr. Nugent being near and to the north of the cemetery.

This committee consisting of Messrs. Skerman, Stubbings, Norris, Nugent, C.T. Williams, Hay, J.W. Strain, Kenman and F. Williams were not all presbyterians and minutes of the day state, "That while the building is distinctly the property of the Upper North Pine Presbyterian Church it is understood that it is available for use by all sections of the church".

Trustees appointed for the property were Messrs. G. Skerman, F. Williams and M. Stubbings. Years later differing interpretations of this were to cause problems when in order to participate more fully in the work and life of the Presbyterian Church of Qld., the committee of the day proposed that the property be vested in the Corporation of the Queensland Church.

Several prominent churchmen resigned their positions and one refused to attend church at all remarking, "If I have to choose between heaven with the corporation or hell without, I'll go to hell". In fact the land given by Mr. Nugent was never transferred to the corporation and when a sale was negotiated several years ago it required executive council approval, there being no living trustees.

There were of course regular Presbyterian Services in Terrors Creek before 1900. These were held in the Orange Hall which at this time stood near the junction of the Lacey's Creek and Mt. Pleasant roads. By 1905 the congregation had out grown the first building and it was extended. In 1925 the building was moved to it's present position in Dayboro. Further extensions to the vestry were made some thirty years ago and a Church Hall added in 1961.

CLOSEBURN.

Presbyterian activity began in the Closeburn area about 1926 when Home Missionary Mr. Murphy began services in the Closeburn Public Hall. The district had received a population boost due to the building of a large sawmill complete with workers barracks by Mr. M. Harland at Upper Cedar Creek. When congregations quickly built up to 50 - 60 at the fortnightly services it was decided by the local people to build a church.

Land was donated near the hall and railway station by Mr. A. Kopp. A public subscription list was instituted and a loan was obtained from Church Offices to build this fund to just over £200 so that building could commence.

The weather board and fibro lined church was opened on Saturday 8th. December, 1928 approximately two years after services began in the Hall. The ceremony was conducted by the then Moderator for Queensland Rev. G. L. Sherriffs. A meal was provided after the 5 p.m. ceremony and a sacred concert followed at 7.30 p.m.

Mr. Joseph Herron who also attended Samsonvale services regularly was the Elder for the area. A Sunday School was also organised by Rev. and Mrs. Yule. Mr. Walter Herron took over as superintendant and remained so until 1933 when he left the district to serve as a notable missionary in Bolivia until his death there in a plane crash in 1965. His assistants in teaching were Miss Dobson and Miss Chilton.

The management committee included J. Dobson, J. Herron, A. Kopp, A. McNiven, A. Nielsen and T. Salisbury. Mrs. Murphy led in the establishment of a Woman's Guild. In later years Mr. Alex Law established a successful P.F.A. Group which functioned till about 1964.

The sawmill at Upper Cedar Creek closed after a few years and the congregation became much depleted but services continued on fortnightly or monthly basis, sometimes on week nights. In the mid 1960^s a succession of departures from the district by Presbyterian followers seriously depleted the congregation and services were discontinued from 1966.

The two remaining Presbyterian families decided to attend the Methodist Church in Samford which by this time was only a few minutes drive on a sealed road. There appeared to be no real purpose in retaining the building when it was observed that this arrangement worked well. Prospects of church union in the area looked likely and there was a problem of too few preachers coping with a large number of preaching centres, so the management committee decided to offer the property for sale at \$3,000. A sale was made in 1972 to a person who intended to convert the building into a private dwelling.

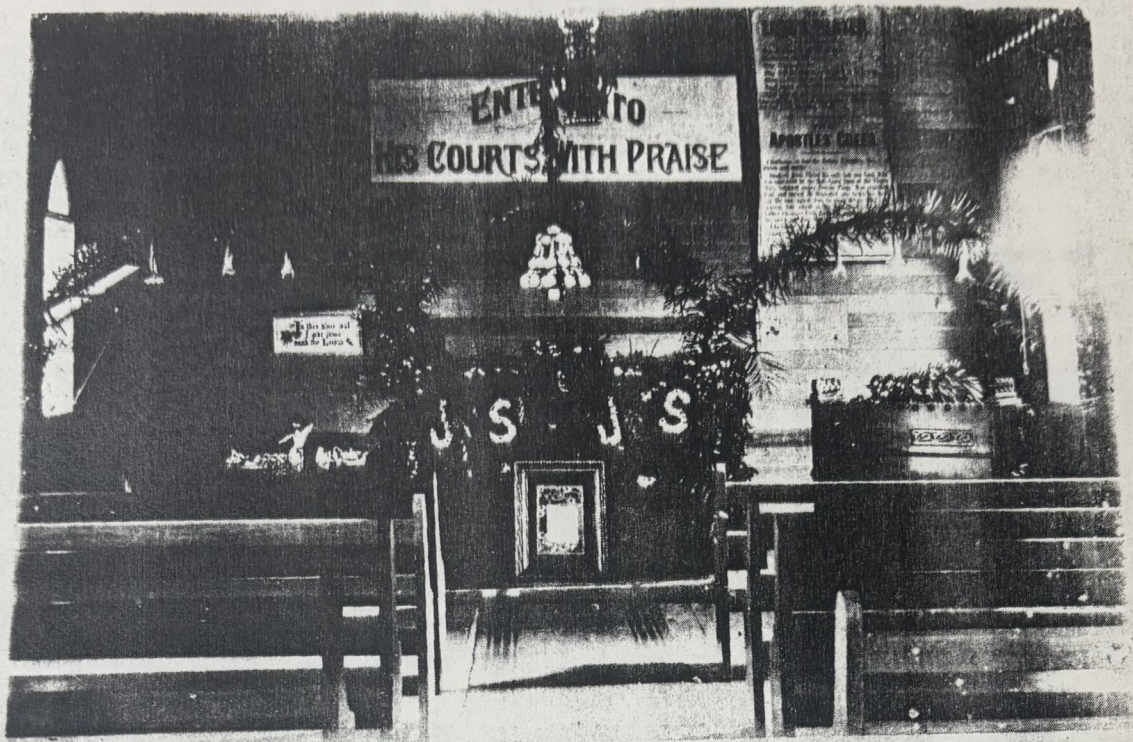
During the ministry of Mr. Thomas Harvey 1908 - 1911 a house was purchased from Mr. F. Skerman for use as a manse. This building, while close to the church of that time was later sold and another home bought in McKenzie Street as a manse. The first regular minister a Mr. Watkins arrived in 1891. He lived on the Samsonvale homestead in a house provided by the Joyner family. Before Mr. Watkins the area was served by students from Brisbane, Messrs. Southey, Patterson, Crookstone, Cocks and Gillespie are on record as having ministered to our people at this time. Lay preachers were also in demand Mr. W. Skerman being one.

Mr. Dale, a missionary from Scotland, was the second minister. He combined his ministry with farming in the Kobbie Creek area. Mrs. S. Barker a grand-daughter remembers his prowess with a fishing line, and he normally turned journeys by sulky to preaching posts into hunting expeditions helping to keep a pioneering family fed by this means.

As a sanction charge until 1898 and one of Queensland's first home mission stations from that date we have enjoyed the services of a veritable host of ministers and the following list may not be complete.

Mr. A. L. Laurie	1898	Mr. A. North	1940
Mr. J. Stewart	1900	Mr. H. McIntyre	1941
Mr. R. Inglis	1906	Mr. A. Brown	1943
Mr. Brown	1904	Mr. J. Gowdie	1944
Mr. McAllister	1907	Mr. U. K. Turner	1946
Mr. T. Harvey	1908	Mr. T. Jordon Ayling	1947
Mr. C. D. Sydney	1912	Mr. M. D'Arcy	1948
Mr. R. Scott	1913	Mr. J. McKillop	1949
Mr. Leyden	1916	Mr. W. B. McIntosh	1950
Mr. Way	1921	Mr. Hartshorn	1951
Mr. Bousfield	1922	Mr. A. Law	1952
Mr. R. Crowe	1924	Mr. Kinniburgh	1954
Mr. Murphy	1927	Mr. N. Kerkin	1957
Mr. Yule	1929	Mr. R. Wallace	1960
Mr. McNeil - Saunders	1931	Mr. D. Brandon	1963
Mr. D. Brown	1933	Mr. J. W. Lang	1965
Mr. D. McLennan	1935	Mr. I. Richards	1968
Mr. Roberts	1936	Mr. J. Carlisle	1969
Mr. Howatson	1939		

In this year of Our Lord we are part of the " Pine Rivers Special Area " sharing with " Pine Rivers, Brighton and Sandgate " the ministry of Messrs. Allan Agnew, John Thompson and Colin Campbell in a new attempt by the church to meet the needs of a people in the second half of the twentieth century.



CHURCH INTERIOR Ferron's Creek.



S. S. PICNIC - 1906

In conclusion, I hope that by mentioning names, I have not excluded anyone - my apologies if I have. I do hope most sincerely, that those families previously spoken of will always be remembered amongst those who have tried so hard to keep Christianity alive in our small area. May the fellowship of the Christian church live on in, " dear Mt. Pleasant " and to the Upper North Pine Charge, congratulations and best wishes for their second century.

" Old timer ".

A Sunday school was one of the first extensions of the church organised by the Short Cut congregations and this tradition has been honoured throughout our history. With schools at Short Cut under Mr. Skerman established in the 1870^s at North Pine by Mr. Wylie 1884. On his transfer to the Samsonvale congregation Mr. Skerman taught again there, as have three Misses Gold, Miss B. Witte, Miss J. Hedge, Miss M. Bennett, Mr. Allan O'Hara and Mr. Ken Gold.

The Terrors Creek area has seen Sunday School at Fishery Pocket - Armstrong Creek under Miss Hamilton and Mr. Rowe, Kobbie Creek Misses Deitz, Mt. Pleasant Mrs. Henzell, Lacey's Creek Mr. Witte, Kings Scrub Miss Hart, while at Dayboro we have records of Mr. Skerman, Mr. Hay, Miss Hay, Mrs. Witte, Mr. R. Taylor, Mrs. J. Kelly, Mrs. Kennedy and Mr. Hall as superintendants. These people have, of course, had numerous willing helpers and we may have no record of some of our best except in their work.

Mrs. S. Stubbings tells of an early Sunday School conducted by her grand-mother Mrs. C. T. Williams and Mrs. Storey in a slab hall built near French's bridge at Mt. Pleasant in the 1880^s.

The annual Sunday School picnics have been an important local event. How many remember the ones organised by Mrs. Jean Kelly, Mrs. Kennedy and Mr. Lee.

Church Organists have served quietly or not so quietly since the days of services in the Orange Lodge Hall. The minutes of 1901 record a gift of a bible to the organist Miss Bella McKenzie on the occasion of her marriage. Miss McKenzie may have been the first regular organist and has been followed by Mr. Skerman, Miss L. Hay, Mrs. R. Strain, Miss G. Hay, Mrs. Layden, Miss Bessie Kelly, Miss C. Strain, Mrs. Kennedy, Mrs. J. Kenman, Mrs. L. Hoath and at present Mrs. J. Easlea.

Guild : The Women's Guild has been part of the Dayboro Church since 1922 celebrating its 50th. year anniversary last year 1972. Previous minutes make numerous reference to tea meetings, concerts and collections organised by women of the church long before 1922. In fact, women seem to have played a major part in the early work of the church and have been the best source of information on its history.

Among so many who have served the church so well in Upper North Pine, one stands out - Wally Marron missionary pilot of the Andes. Hearing the call he left his Closeburn home to serve in the jungles of Bolivia, where for 30 years he was known and loved especially by the sick and the poor until killed in an air craft accident. The Bolivian Government honoured him with it's highest award " Condor of the Andes ".

Transport: One would expect that in a country charge transport in all its forms would be a constant concern of the management committee. Minutes of the times bear this out, in 1889 Terrors Creek agreed to purchase saddle and bridle for the Minister's use provided Samsonvale provided the horse. Another Minister in 1903 needed a new horse and it cost \$12. Worn out or pranged? One minister on being posted persuaded the committee to let him take the horse with him. Horse feed must have been as much a problem as motor fuel, committee men had strong ideas and long discussions on cost of this and in 1907 Mr. Hay was offered the clerical mare's foal for two years horse feed. Some ministers used sulkies others rode and for almost thirty years Mr. Frank Hart shod their horses, mended their harness and sulkies as well as providing special transport for Sunday services. During the twenties several ministers in particular Mr. Bousfield and Mr. Crowe used bicycles. The motor age appears to have arrived in the early thirties with a Morris and we find the committee recording a motion that Mr. W. Morris be written to complaining of service faults in his vehicle. Nothing like going to the top perhaps it had results, Morris would seem to make a good car now.

In conclusion, we offer this partial history of the first one hundred years of Presbyterian work in Upper North Pine - humbly, and aware of its many faults, as a frame work on which others may build the full story.