

Jeddo Chapel shows a history from the past

This photo taken prior to 1910 of the interior of Jeddo Chapel is compliments of Rebecca Ott. This religious group can trace its history back to the 1830s, when a Sunday school was organized in the local schoolhouse. Many of the area residents were Baptists who attended the First Baptist Church of Hartland.

In 1869, the International Order of Good Templars was organized by people of Jeddo and Johnson's Creek to combat drunkenness.

In 1876 Joe Paine of Jeddo agreed to give just enough land out of his yard to build a temperance hall for the I.O.G.T. In haste to build, proper foundations for the structure were not set well. Within 10 years, the hall needed major repairs.

The Lodge could not afford this, so they said they would give their property to any orthodox church that would

build a place of worship including a basement room for use of the Lodge. Most of the Lodge members were people who attended the Hartland Baptist Church; as a result they prevailed upon the church to build a chapel in Jeddo.

Work began in the spring of 1887 with farmers drawing stone from a fallen down Free Will Baptist Church on Fruit Avenue. The old IOGT hall was raised up and excavation was made for a basement on a sound foundation.

In September 1887, ladies organized the Jeddo Chapel Society to raise funds to furnish their place of worship. Consequently, they were able to purchase wallpaper, carpet, pulpit furniture and chairs.

Almer Brown donated red oak trees, which were made into pews by John Shingleton in his wagon shop. Mr. Evans made black



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walnut book racks for the back of each pew.

On Nov. 17, 1887, the dedication service was held in the chapel with a capacity crowd. Mrs. Almer Brown played the organ — the same one she had played for many years for Sunday School services at the schoolhouse. The interior view of the chapel shows the pews mentioned above.

To the right on the platform, we see a reed

20th century. Yes indeed, they were wallpapered, sometimes with outlandish designs in dark colors.

By the 1930s, church interiors of this nature started to take on a much more subdued ambience and a rather boring plainness as

compared to Victorian taste.

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organ, and in the center, a pulpit. Plants and flowers are placed here for some special occasion when the picture was taken. Note the kerosene hanging lamp over the pulpit.

Perhaps what stands out the most here is the bold wallpaper with its flamboyant border.

This is a good example of what many rural Protestant churches looked like in the late 19th century and early