

ASHWOOD WESLEYAN CHURCH

BY C.W. LATTIN
Orleans County Historian

7/16/09

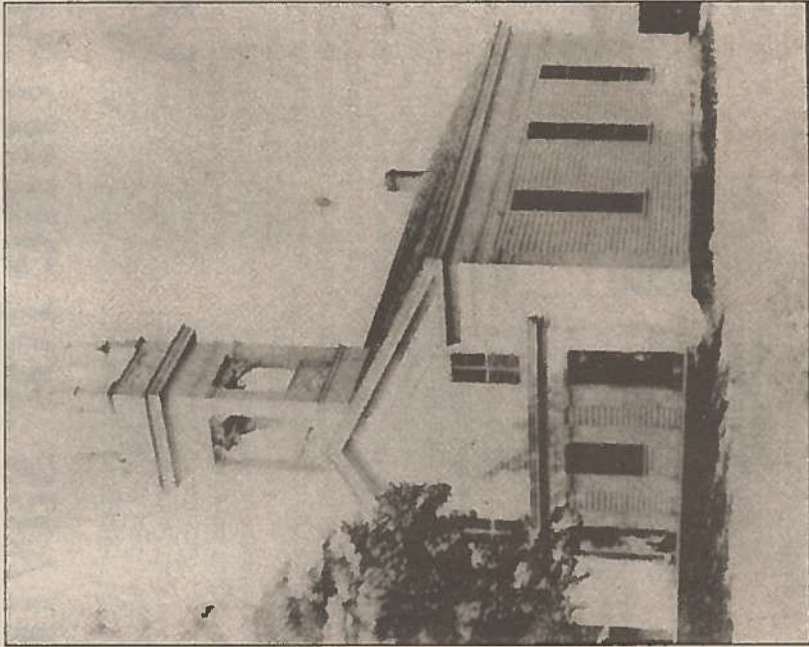
At the southwest corner of the Yates-Carlton Townline Road and the Platten Road is an historic marker which states: "Original Site of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of Yates - 1855. Renamed Ashwood Wesleyan Church 1968."

The accompanying photo shows the original church building which was used until 1968. At that time, a new edifice was created to accommodate the growing needs of the congregation.

A couple of decades later, the old church building was razed.

It was in 1854 that a small group of people began to worship in a one-room school house on this site. When that burned, the district rebuilt farther to the north and sold the lot to the church. The church building was completed and dedicated in 1856 at a cost of \$1,000.

In 1919, a parsonage was



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

built next to the church. During the early 1920s the old church building was raised up on a higher foundation to accommodate a basement level for Sunday School use and other functions.

Vol. XXXI, No. 29
**Bethinking
of Olde
Orleans**

The only other Wesleyan congregation established in Orleans County was at Eagle Harbor in 1843. In 1845, a church was built there on the south side of the canal which burned in 1918. Soon thereafter, that congregation disbanded.

As a brief footnote, the Wesleyan Methodist Church was organized as a denomination in Utica in May 1843. At that conference, they adopted a discipline that prohibited the owning of slaves and the use of intoxicating liquors. Obviously, two important issues of the day were anti-slavery and temperance.

The denomination spread quite rapidly from Maine to Michigan before the Civil War.