

SCOTCH SETTLEMENT AULD KIRK TO BECOME A MUSEUM?

The deluge of rain on Sunday did not deter the descendants of the sturdy Scotch Settlement pioneers from attending the unveiling ceremonies at the Auld Kirk cemetery. A remarkably large crowd, considering weather conditions, was in attendance, and with the speakers sheltered by a large covered truck, and the audience huddled under umbrellas, the program, as arranged, was conducted with as much detail as though the sun had shone.

Mrs. Angus Campbell (Helen Fraser) of Toronto unveiled the plaque to the memory of the pioneer Selkirk settlers, and Mr. Henry McKay unveiled a marker in memory of his uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. James McKay. These plaques were dedicated by Mr. Williams, minister of the church.

Under the chairmanship of Warden, Reeve of Bradford, D. Arthur Evans, respectful tribute to the memory of pioneer settlers was made, and history was recalled, by Reeve Percy Selby of West Gwillimbury, who read the deed for the land for the church site; Mr. George G. Johnston, M.P.P.; and Mr. Murray Faris, representing the Board of Trustees.

Dr. Wilfred Jury, representing the Archaeological and Historic Sites Board, in addressing the gathering, made a suggestion which is likely to make the occasion one which will be followed by further tangible evidence that the residents of the Scotch Settlement, both past and present, and of this district, are keenly interested in preserving records and articles of historic interest for the benefit of this and future generations. The suggestion that the Auld Kirk be given the necessary repairs, and be established as a museum, apparently appealed to the audience, and the collection for the afternoon was most generous. At time of going to press The Witness is informed that already a new roof is practically assured because of money already contributed. Dr. Jury stated that the Archaeological and Historic Sites Board is anxious that such a museum be established in the southern part of Simcoe County and that if such a museum is established the annual grants should carry most of its upkeep expenses, but such grants come only after the people of the district have done their part in establishing a museum.

Action is being taken upon Dr. Jury's suggestion and a meeting has been called, at which the matter will receive further consideration.

Thus those who braved Sunday's rain returned home satisfied that not only had a tribute been paid to the church's pioneers, but that such tribute is likely to be perpetuated by the suggestion and resulting action, arising from that service of commemoration.