

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, CHIPPAWA

In those old records are names that are intertwined with the history of Chippawa and the peninsula: Mewburns, Conklins, Phelps, Keefers, Sawbridges, Ushers, Secords, Nicholsons, Coulsons, Lifertys, McGlashans. Here, for instance, are two marriage entries: May 30, 1849, by Rev. T. B. Fuller, J. B. Plumb of Albany and Elizabeth Street.

Oct. 9, 1837, by Rev. F. W. Miller, Richard Lippincott Denison and Susan Maria Macklem.

Unfortunately, in the fire of 1839 all the minutes and records were destroyed. We have not the fullest insight into the struggles for the building of a new church, but this was successfully accomplished. In 1841 the corner stone was laid by Bishop Strachan.

The first place of worship in this vicinity was undoubtedly old Trinity church. Then followed the Wesleyan Methodist church. Afterwards, about the year 1840, an R. C. church was opened at Falls View, the first priest, Rev. Father Gordon, coming from Niagara to attend the services as required. The first English church services at Clifton were held in the G. T. R. railway station. Rev. D. I. F. McLeod was the first rector of Christ's church, which was an outstation of Chippawa under his pastorate. He was also instrumental in instituting services and the building of a church at Fonthill. He was also missionary in Welland. Until a regular clergyman was appointed he held monthly communion services at Christ church and was assisted by a lay reader at the other services. Niagara Falls was a part of Chippawa parish for eleven years prior to 1874.

Rev. Mr. Leeming was the kind of man of which the church is proud. He was a zealous minister and he possessed a goodness of heart that made his long incumbency a happy one. Music in the church, in Mr. Leeming's day, was much unlike what it is today. There was no choir, but instead an orchestra. Dr. Macklem played the violin, James Macklem the flute and Mr. Brown the cello. Afterwards the music was furnished by an organ and flute, James Macklem playing the latter. It was on the 12th of November, 1848, that James and Oliver T. Macklem were instructed to buy an organ for the church at a cost not to exceed 150 pounds.

Rev. James Miller, or "Priest" Miller, as he was familiarly called, conducted services under Rev. Mr. Leeming, assisting him in his large parish of Stamford and Chippawa, between the years of 1830 and 1840. It was Mr. Miller's custom to change his surplice during the service, using a white one during the reading and a black one while preaching.

Mr. Leeming in 1848 instituted a movement for the abolition