

OLD SUNBURY.

Memorial Services of the Parish of Christ Church, Maugerville.

Historical Sketch Read by the Rev. R. W. Colston, M. A., the Rector, at the Recent Celebration.

A Township that was Named After a Noted Halifax Brewer—The Advent of the Loyalists and Why They Came—Names of the First Settlers Who Preceded Them.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

MAUGERVILLE, Sumbury Co., Aug. 31.—The celebration and memorial services of the one hundred and fifteenth anniversary (1783-1898) of the parish of Christ church, which took place today, constituted an event of more than usual interest, and was a grand success as well. The weather was all that could be desired, the air was balmy and fragrant, the birds twittered and sang their sweet melodies in the stately elms on the historic grounds as if by inspiration, to make the day an ideal one. Those most interested were early astir, the class were soon re-inforced by a large delegation from Fredericton, by the morning boat, to assist in the celebration. Among those were: The Lord Bishop of Fredericton, the Very Rev. Dean Partridge, Sub-Dean Whalley, Rev. Canon Roberts, Rev. Canon DeVeber of St. John; Rev. H. Montgomery, Kingston; Rev. H. E. Dibble, Burton; Rev. James Simonds, Richmond, Ya.; G. G. Hunt, J. de Lancy Robinson, James S. Beck, Geo. Armstrong and many others. Rev. Enoch Barker and John Pool of Toronto were also present.

A large congregation assembled at the church at 11 a. m., when an eloquent and appropriate sermon was preached by the dean, after which holy communion was celebrated.

On the rectory grounds under the stately tree a long table was set and laden with a sumptuous repast, provided by the ladies of the church, which was heartily partaken of, after the service. At the residence of Mrs. Nettie Harrison a like provision was made.

At 3 p. m. the crowning event of the day was called on. The Rev. Canon Roberts, taking the chair on the veranda of the rectory, called the large company to order, at the same time underscoring the wedding, an old sword with majestic effect and the story of a village. The sword is a relic of St. George's Lodge, No. 18, of Free and Accepted Masons, organized here in 1783. The sword and charter and many papers are now in possession of Major Elford Brown, who kindly loaned them for the occasion.

When order was secured, the Rev. R. W. Colston, M. A., rector of the parish, commenced his very able address, and held the undivided attention of the large number present for over an hour and a half.

Facing up the subject, he clearly defined his position in relation to this important event. He spoke of Maugerville—the parochial Maugerville of long ago, the shire town of Sunbury county, province of Nova Scotia; the first permanent settlement in the southern portion of this province; the first loyal settlement on the River St. John; the first place in which a building was erected for the worship of God; the oldest Church of England parish in the Province of England; and where was the first consecrated church.

The rector eloquently dealt with the old story of the true and genuine of our people, who were not a band of lawless adventurers, but of that grand, true type which laid the foundations of the British empire, strong and sure. God-loving, God-fearing, God-trusting, God-adoring, industrious, were the men and women of 1783 and 1785, who did not disparage the religious life, but bore in mind that it was by remembering the Lord their God, by loving and obeying Him, that they could hope for a blessing in the new land which they came to possess.

The Puritans of old settlers were briefly referred to, also England's conflict in 1766, or the "seven years' war," and its results. On August 30th, 1762, a petition was sent to the government of Nova Scotia from officers of the disbanded provincial regiments for grants of land on the St. John River, on which they desired to settle. It was signed by Captains Alex. Hay, John Sinclair, Hugh Dibble, Alex. Ballie, Capt. Lt. Hugh Geo. Bruce and Lt. J. E. W. Desbarres, on behalf of themselves and fifty-four others. This petition resulted in an order of survey for laying out a township on the St. John River. This township was called Maugerville in honor of a wealthy distiller in Halifax, who seemed to have acted in the capacity of money lender to the government. The order of survey provided that four lots should be reserved for public use; one for a glebe for the Church of England, one for a glebe for the dissenting Protestants, one for school purposes and one for the settled minister. These four lots were No. 15, 16, 17 and 18, and were reserved to the government, where the meeting house now stands; No. 6, granted to the Rev. John Beardsley, the second rector of the parish, and now owned by Sandy and Walter Smith; the school lot was No. 59 and was afterwards granted to the Rev. John Beardsley, the first rector of Maugerville. This lot is supposed to be where the Upper Maugerville school house now stands. The first Congregationalist minister, Rev. Seth Noble, did not remain long, and Rev. John Sayre died a few months after coming into residence, so the first settled minister was the Rev. John Beardsley.

In the winter of 1761, Lt. Israel Perley led a party of men from Massachusetts to the River St. John, con-

ing over land from Machias via the Oromocto waters. When they reached the St. John River they established themselves at Maugerville. The following summer James Simonds led another party via the mouth of the St. John River, August 28th, 1762, among whom was Capt. Francis Peabody, who settled in Maugerville, and it may be he who served with so much distinction with Capt. Hagan in the campaigns of 1765 and 1767. James Simonds married Capt. Peabody's daughter Hannah, while another daughter, Esther, was married to Simonds' partner, White. In the year 1763, following the advice of Lt. Israel Perley, a large number of families came from Massachusetts to the River St. John, to settle on the Puritan settlement. From 400 to 800 souls were variously estimated to be located here. In 1763, Rev. T. Wood of Annapolis reported to the S. P. G. that at a service held in Maugerville, he had over 200 persons present.

The names of some of those old settlers are as follows: Oliver Perley, George Soy, Samuel Upton, Richard Esly, Israel Esly, Moses Coburn, Edward Burpee, Joseph Barker, Sr., Ebenezer Briggs, Samuel Whitney, Joseph Barker, Silvanus Plummer, Jere. Burpee, Thos. Burpee, Jacob Barker, Jr., Daniel Jewett, David Burpee, Moses Pickard, Humphrey Pickard, Jacob Barker, Jr., Nathan Smith, Thomas Barker, John Upton, Daniel Palmer, Sr., Daniel Palmer, Jr., Abijah Palmer, Samuel Nevers, Sr., Peter Mooers, Enoch Dow, Jabez Nevers, Wm. McKee, Thos. Chrystie, Israel Perley, Frances Peabody, Stephen Peabody, Wm. Davidson, Asa Perley, Nicholas Ridout, John Pickard, Richard Barker, Nehemiah Beckwith, Alex. Tappley, Benjamin Brown, Sam Nevers, Jr., and James Woodman.

To the forty-nine names may be added Jonathan Burpee, Elisha Novers, Phinehas Nevers, Edward Coy, Jonathan Smith, Geo. Howard, Bridges, Taylor, Loder, Hugh Quinton, Garrison, Waason and Bailey. These last were from Essex Co., Mass.; the Perleys from Bedford, Burpees from Cornwall, and others from Haverhill, Newburyport, Ipswich, Gloucester, Salem and other towns.

Their grants were as follows, starting from the upper county line: Nehemiah Beckwith, half 42; Richard Barlow, lot 45; John Pickard, lot 44; Nicholas Ridout, lots 61, 62, 63; Alex. Perley, lot 73; Wm. Davidson, lots 75 and 76; James Woodman, half lot 77; Sam Nevers, Jr., lots 78 and 79; Stephen Peabody, lots 81 and 82; Alex. Tappley, lot 83; Frances Peabody, lots 84 and 85; Israel Perley, lot 89 and a small triangular piece out of lot 90, at present owned by Mrs. Nettie Harrison; Wm. McKee, lots 91, 92 and 93; Jesse Chrystie, half lot 92; Thos. Chrystie, lot 94; Jabez Nevers, lot 95; Richard Esly, lot 104; Enoch Dow, lot 1; Peter Nevers, lot 3; Sam Nevers, Jr., lot 3; Daniel Palmer, Jr., half lot 4; Daniel Palmer, Sr., half lots 5 and 6; Abijah Palmer, half lot 5; John Watson, lot 7; Thomas Barker, lot 8; Nathan Smith, lot 9; Isaac Barker, lot 10; Jacob Barker, Jr., lot 11; Moses and Humphrey Pickard, lot 12; David Burpee, lot 13; Daniel Jewett, lot 14; Jacob Barker, Sr., lot 15; Jere. and Thos. Burpee, lot 17; Silvanus Plummer, half lot 18; Joseph Barker, lot 19; Eben Briggs, half lot 20; Sam Whitney, half lot 20; Joseph Barker, Sr., lot 21; Edw. Burpee, lot 22; Moses Coburn, lot 23; Israel and Richard Esly, lot 24; Sam Upton, lot 27; George Soy, lot 23; Oliver Perley, lot 29; Benj. Brown, lot 51.

These were the homes of those hardy pioneers of 1762 and '63. In 1763 they laid the foundation of the Congregational church. The lecturer read the original covenant, which was signed by Jonathan Burpee, Elisha Nevers, Richard Esly, Daniel Palmer, George Soy, Edward Coy and Jonathan Smith. Jonathan Burpee was the first deacon. A treaty was made by Israel Perley with the Indians, by whom his name is still held with high respect and reverence. On April 30th, 1765, the township on the St. John river was formed into the county of Sunbury. On May 29 a writ was issued by the inhabitants to elect a fit person to represent them in the general assembly of Nova Scotia. Charles Morris was elected. In 1776 Sunbury Co. appears to have had all the machinery of government in operation. The first magistrates were David Burpee, Sr., Jacob Barker, Phinehas Nevers, Israel Perley and Francis Peabody. The latter held the position of collector. Smuggling to some extent followed.

For the first ten years the settlement was without a settled minister. Frequent visits were made by traveling missionaries. On Feb. 23rd, 1776, George Soy and Anna Russell were united by the bench of magistrates. In 1774 the first settled minister began his work. A meeting was called at the house of Hugh Quinton June 16th, 1774, and Rev. Seth Noble was engaged, at one hundred and twenty pounds per year. In 1775 a parsonage was commenced and made ready for clapping in Jan. 1776.

About this time a season of depression and unrest seems to have prevailed which caused some dissatisfaction from the crown. In June, 1777, the Veterans appeared and matters soon assumed a normal condition. On June 17th, 1779, the people renewed their covenant. In 1781 Deacon Jonathan Burpee died. His estate was valued at \$35 pounds. A number of odd entries was given by the lecturers, as one hundred and twenty pounds per year. In 1775 a parsonage was commenced and made ready for clapping in Jan. 1776.

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congregation. The only school of which there is any record was taught by David Burpee during the winter of 1778 and '79.

The prices of farm products which prevailed from 1774 to 1784 were: Butter, from sixpence to one shilling and three pence per pound; lamb, two and half pence do.; beef, one and a half to sixpence do.; potatoes, one shilling and three pence to two shillings sixpence per bushel; wheat, five to ten shillings. A man was paid two shillings sixpence per day and a woman ten shillings per month. A cow was worth ten shillings per gallon, and white lead two shillings per pound. A horse was worth ten pounds and a cow about five pounds.

The speaker here, taking up the second part of his subject, graphically described the advent of the loyalists and why they came. Landing at the mouth of the river May 18th, 1783, some of them may have immediately proceeded up to Maugerville. The first of the loyalists to settle here were: Ichobed Smith, lot 40 and 41; Fred D. Ebbeston, half lot 42; John D. Beardsley, half lots 43 and 44; Michael McNall, lot 44; Joseph Hoyt, lot 46; Joseph Clark, lots 47, 48 and 49; John Sayre (heirs), lot 50; Donaligus Sewell, lot 53; Duncan McLeod, lot 50; Henry Jas. Barton, lots 57, 58 and 59; Rev. John Beardsley, lots 60 and 64; Capt. Abe Depeyster, lot 65; John Thompson, lot 66; George Munroe, lot 67; Beau Munroe, lot 68; Capt. Gerhart Murray, lot 69; Abie English, half lot 69; John Simonsen, lot 70; Geo. Harding, lot 74; Richard Carman, half of lot 77; Capt. Elijah Miles, lot 86; Major Upham, lot 83; George Bull, half of lot 82; Nathaniel Underhill, half of lot 4; John Mesereau, lot 89; Col. J. Murray, lot 96. These lots are numbered from the upper county line as taken from the grants, when given. Others joined the loyalist settlement after that.

It would appear that from the time of Rev. T. Wood's visit in 1769 there had been no Church of England clergyman here, until the arrival of the Rev. John Sayre in 1783. He officiated for a time at the Congregationalist meeting house, with their approbation. He was an S. P. G. missionary from Fairfield, Conn. He died in Burton in August, 1784. His memorial is now to be seen in the chancel of Christ church. For some years after his name remained here and in church records. His daughter Bester married Christopher Robinson, who went west. The late John B. Robinson, ex-lieutenant governor of Ontario, was one of Rev. John Sayre's great-grandsons.

Rev. John Sayre was the founder of the ecclesiastical parish of Maugerville. At an Easter Monday meeting, April 12th, 1784, the following officers were elected: John Mesereau, warden; Geo. Harding, Elijah Miles, Wm. Allen and Nathaniel Underhill, vestrymen. John Mesereau continued warden for twelve years. John Mesereau was an associate judge of the court of common pleas, when James Simonds was chief justice.

The Rev. John Sayre was succeeded by the Rev. John Beardsley, son of the rector of this important parish in the autumn of 1784. He was born at Shafton, Connecticut, in 1732, and was for some time student at Yale. He was ordained in England, and had been the rector of Poughkeepsie and Fishkill, N. Y., and also chaplain of the 6th American Regiment under Col. Beverly Robinson. On September, 9th, 1784, at a meeting held at Nathaniel Underhill's, the following persons were chosen as wardens and vestrymen: John Mesereau and Henry Vanderburgh, wardens; vestrymen: John Mesereau, Wm. Allen, Joseph Clark, Wm. Hubbard, John Simonsen, N. Underhill, Henry Vanderburgh left the province in the following year. Jos. Clark was a surgeon and practiced his profession for years from Gaspetown to Fishkill, N. Y., and also chaplain of the 6th American Regiment under Col. Beverly Robinson. 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