

# History of St. George's Church, Ottawa.

## CHAPTER I.

### OPENING OF THE CHURCH, AND RECTORSHIP OF REV. P. OWEN JONES.

The first Church of England service was held in St. George's Church, on Sunday, April 12th, 1885, twenty-five years ago.

A word as to the conditions under which the congregation was formed may be of interest.

Ottawa then had a population of 32,500, or, including the territory since added to the city, perhaps 35,000. While the population has since then more than doubled, its distribution is quite different.

The city of Ottawa was originally built up from two centres, "Lower Town," between the Rideau Canal and Rideau River, and "Upper Town," on the flats of the Chaudiere.

These two centres were connected by the thoroughfares of Wellington and Sparks Sts., along the course of which business gradually developed, but it was many years before this section of the city extended southward to any distance. Central and Wellington Wards, now containing almost as many people as the whole city did at that time, were built up for but a few blocks south of Sparks Street, and beyond were fields extending to the nearest suburb, Stewarton. Bank Street was a country road; the first retail stores upon it had been built but a short time before. The building up of Metcalfe Street and the fine residential quarter, of which it is the centre, had just begun.

In accordance with the distribution of population, congregations of the Church of England were formed at the different centres. Thus in the early eighties we find Christ Church at the west end of the City, St. John's, nearly equal in adherents to Christ Church, in the centre, St. Alban's on Sandy Hill, and St. Bartholomew's in New Edinburgh. St. Luke's, in the adjacent suburb of Rochesterville, with Trinity Church, Archville, and Holy Trinity, Billings' Bridge, situated as then considered far off in the country, completes the tally of churches situated in the area now covered by the city. Since then, six churches have been added, of which St. George's was the first.

With the growth of the central part of the city, and the promise of the greater growth which the future would yield, came a demand for further Church accommodation.

Early in 1885, a movement to form a new congregation was initiated by four members of Christ Church congregation, Messrs. James Adamson, A. J. Cambie, Charles Magee and Chas. S. Shaw.