



Thomas Campbell
Elder.

Those were the days of long distances, with only trails through the otherwise unbroken forests. The services were maintained under great difficulties and somewhat intermittently. It was in the year 1858 that the Presbytery of London was appealed to to grant the services of a missionary for at least six months. The Rev. W. R. Sutherland, then in charge of the Presbyterian congregation on the Longwoods Road, was appointed moderator of the new charge. It was not until ten years after the church was built that definite steps were taken to have a settled pastor, when application was made to and granted by the Presbytery to proceed to moderate in a call. Accordingly in the year 1865 the Rev. John Stewart, then of Blyth, in the County of Huron, was called at a salary of \$400. The call was accepted and his induction took place on August 23rd of the same year.

The work of the church was now assuming a permanency, for we find that in the spring of the following year, no less than four Sabbath Schools were carried on under the supervision of the Session. Sabbath Schools were established at the following places: On the north side of the river, in Brodie's school house (Riverside), and at Melbourne; on the south side, at the church and on the townline at the junction of the townline and 5th Concession.

The Sabbath School at Melbourne was continued open all the year, but the others closed during the winter months. Mr. Thomas Gordon was the superintendent of this school. Mr. Gordon was a very faithful attendant upon the services of the church, notwithstanding the long distance and poor condition of the roads. His mode of travel was for a time a gig, but his unselfish nature soon found him using a larger convey-