

The Pickards were descended from one of the five persons of the name of Pickard who came out in the "Mayflower" to New England in the seventeenth century; and among the Pickard families on the Ridge there are the following relics from the "Mayflower," viz: an English Bible, a German or Dutch Bible, and a staff.

Mr. Humphrey Pickard, who had been a deacon of the Congregational Church in Sheffield before his removal to the Ridge, was noted for his devoted piety and Christian principle; and it is stated that he was about the first layman in the County of York who conducted meetings for exhortation and prayer. Mr. Moses Pickard, his brother, also a man of piety, moved with his family to the Ridge some years later.

Among the names of the early settlers held in high repute are those of Samuel Clark and Jesse Christy, the latter of whom was a native of New England. Mr. Christy resided at the head of the Ridge, Mr. Pickard at the lower end, while Mr. Clark had his residence at the centre, and meetings were held in their houses in turn. In the absence of churches and church organizations, people attended the services from considerable distances.

Although the roads afforded a poor chance for travel, the Congregational minister from Sheffield visited the Ridge occasionally, travelling a distance of 30 miles. The Rev. Mr. Boyd is the first minister named who visited the Ridge from Sheffield. This must have been between the years 1796 and 1800.

After Mr. Boyd, the Rev. Duncan Dunbar made occasional visits to the Ridge from Sheffield, and, about 1819, the Rev. Mr. Howden. On the arrival at Sheffield in 1820 of the Rev. Archibald McCallum, who had been sent out by the London Missionary Society, Mr. Howden preached steadily on the Ridge for a short time, holding, in addition, meetings in a private house in Frederickton. Mr. Howden administered the Lord's Supper previous to the organization of the Church, the members being connected with the Church in Sheffield. The prospect of success and support not being favourable, Mr. Howden moved away.

Previous to Mr. Howden's removal the settlers on the Ridge commenced the erection of a meeting house. It is generally believed that Mr. Howden preached on the occasion of the opening, but this is not certain. When services were first held in the building it was not plastered, and the seats used were only temporary arrangements. For some years this building was only used in summer, services in winter being held in private houses.

After the departure of Mr. Howden, Rev. Mr. McCallum, the pastor of the Sheffield Church, visited the Ridge frequently. Mr. McCallum was a man of punctuality, and travelled from Sheffield in the severest storms in winter to meet his engagements. Mr. McC. organized a Church on the Ridge on the 26th of August, 1826. There is no list extant of the early members of the Church, owing to the fact that no records were kept, or, if any, were lost at some time preceding the time of Rev. Mr. Stirling.

The first regularly settled pastor on the Ridge was the Rev. Mr. Weevil. The writer can obtain no information specific in reference to Mr. W. and his ministry. The date of his settlement he cannot obtain. For Mr. Weevil was built the first parsonage, a building recently replaced by one more suitable for the present time.

Whether the ecclesiastical position of the Church was regularly defined, or whether it was simply a Church of Christ managing its own affairs, is not definitely known. It appears, however, that after Mr. Weevil's resignation, the Rev. Daniel McCurdy, of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Nova Scotia, was settled over the Church on the Ridge. Mr. McCurdy remained seven years. In 1847 the members of the Church took a decided stand for the Congregational polity and name, and the Church connected itself with the Congregational Union of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, Messrs. S. Clark and P. Christy being the delegates on the occasion.

The Rev. G. Stirling, of Pleasant River, N. S., having been invited to pay