

ANNIVERSARY
OF
ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH, NIAGARA
1794 - 1831 - 1911

Having been asked to give an historical sketch of St. Andrew's, I feel it to be a high honor to be thus selected, but to tell the history of one hundred and seventeen years in fifteen or twenty minutes is certainly an impossible task, so that merely a few facts here and there can be given. It can have fallen to the lot of few people to have attended or been connected with five centenaries all in one little town, but such I have witnessed. In 1884, on the common, was held the centennial of the landing of the U. E. Loyalists; in 1892, in the park, the meeting of parliament here in 1792, the same year the centennial of St. Mark's, and in 1894 that of our own St. Andrew's, while in 1908 was held the centennial of the grammar school, founded here in 1808. To St. Andrew's belongs the honor of having the first church erected in Niagara, and one of the first in Ontario. The earliest, and still standing, the Mohawk Church near Brantford, 1786; that at Williamstown, Presbyterian, 1787, and Stamford Associate Presbyterian Church, formed in 1784, erected a church in 1791, St. Mark's, in town, was not begun till 1804, nor used for service till 1809, although a missionary came in 1792. Our old record book is dated 30th Sept., 1794, and the words of the fathers of the church are worth recording: "A number of people met this day and resolved that 'As religion is the foundation of all societies, and which cannot so strictly be adhered to without having a place dedicated solely to divine purposes, that a Presbyterian Church should be erected in the town of Newark, and that subscriptions for that purpose be immediately set on foot, as well for the support of a clergyman of the same persuasion.'" The committee consisted of John Young, Ralfe Clench, Andrew Heron, Robt. Kerr, Alexander Gardiner, Wm. McLellan, Alexander Hemphill. A descendant of one of