

HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY

affidavits, and coupling them with other concurring testimony which has come to their knowledge of its having been threatened some months before, is decidedly of the opinion that it has been the foul and malicious act of one or more incendiaries from the American frontier on the night of Thursday, 12th day of September, or the morning of the 13th.

"That deeply as we deplore this grievous calamity and the atrocious manner by which it has been brought upon the community, they are no less sanguine in their hope of again seeing another church built over the ashes of the former, and being enabled to assemble in the courts of the Lord's house on the same hallowed spot where they so long and happily enjoyed the blessings of public worship and would still have continued to enjoy but for this impious and disgraceful outrage."

It is noted, moreover, in the old book which is still preserved, that G. McMicking, M.P.P., offered to relinquish a debt which the church owed him, an offer that was accepted with gratitude. William Hepburn, the postmaster of the day, made offer of the use of his stone house as a place of worship until such time as the new church should be ready. That generosity was also accepted. And there was a third. John G. Howard, architect, of Toronto, proffered plans and specifications without charge. From Mr. Howard's plans the church was built.

When the plans were finally ready it was found that to build the church of stone would cost 50 pounds more than to build it of brick. Brick was chosen.

Pasted in the front of the book is the deed of the church lands from Thomas Clark, member of the first Legislature of Upper Canada, and Samuel Street. The area is set forth as one acre and 18½ perches.

In the year 1820 there were only sixteen clergymen of the Church of England in Upper Canada, and of this number five were in the Niagara District: R. Leeming, Ancaster; Robert Addison, Niagara; William Leeming, Chippawa; William Sampson, Grimsby, and A. Stevens, Queenston. Of these five churches St. Marks of Niagara-on-the-Lake, was founded in 1792, St. Andrew's of Grimsby in 1871, and St. John's, Thorold, in 1825.

The register of births, marriages and deaths dates back to the fire, when the original book was destroyed. Apparently, however, an effort was at once made to fill in for the missing years from stray bits of memoranda and from memory. These were entered at the beginning of the new book, and in many of the entries essential facts are missing, such as a date or a given name.