

The Rise and Development of Presbyterianism in Cape Breton.

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I propose to give you a brief outline of the early history of the Presbyterian Church in Cape Breton, which we are sure will not be void of interest to the present audience.

To trace the progress of the cause of Christ, from nearly its first settlement by Presbyterians on this Island, ought to be interesting to every lover of our Zion.

The first minister who visited Cape Breton was the well-known and much esteemed Rev. Dr. McGregor, of Pictou, who started from that town in the summer of 1799 in a boat with a crew of three men. This visit was principally undertaken at the solicitation of a pious woman named Janet Sutherland, who had emigrated with her husband and family from the Highlands of Scotland, and who had for years mourned the loss of those religious privileges which she had enjoyed in her native land. But we must allow him to tell his own story:

“This summer I performed my long-intended voyage to Cape Breton, which proved very troublesome. I had waited in vain for years for the opportunity of a passage thither. I therefore hired a good boat with three hands, and having laid in plenty of provisions and water, we set off. We had a pleasant sail until we reached Cape George, where we met the wind right ahead. There we anchored all night and