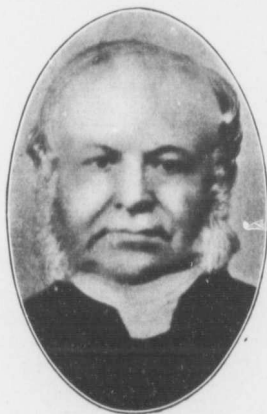


THE origin and history of the church prior to the year 1860 is shrouded in the mists of obscurity.

No records are extant. This much, however, is known. The Rev. John Gunne, missionary of the Church of England at Florence and parts adjacent, held services in Newbury and Wardsville. Those were the days when travelling was difficult; when the roads were in a primitive condition.



REV. JOHN GUNNE

The Rev. John Gunne invariably travelled on horse back. He was a large man. Old settlers describe his picturesque and portly figure, as he travelled from place to place and was welcomed in every home and settlement. In addition to his clerical duties he held the important office of Government Inspector of Schools. He accomplished a great work and

won the lasting gratitude of the early settlers, by procuring for them from the government, a clear deed and title to their farms and properties. Irrespective of creed or race, Mr. Gunne accomplished this useful and beneficent work on behalf of the early settlers, and his name and memory are honored to this day.

"He served his generation by the will of God, and fell asleep and is gathered to his fathers."