

and Methodist minister, was sent to the Bay of Quinte circuit in 1792; he spent all his after ministerial life in Upper Canada and located, reared his family and died in Fredericksburgh township, near Napanee. He lies buried beside the Switzer church, in Ernestown.

The first two Methodist churches built in Upper Canada were erected in 1792 respectively at Adolphustown and Ernestown. The remains of the first at Adolphustown are still standing though it has not been used for years.

It may also be added here that the old Center's Methodist Church, on the Bay High Shore, a couple of miles east of Picton, was the earliest church built in Prince Edward county, and now, perhaps, the oldest Methodist church in use in the entire Dominion of Canada. It was built in 1809 and has been in use ever since. The inside of the old church remains to-day as when it was first finished, and furnishes a good type of the architecture of the earliest Methodist churches.

The first of the regularly sent Presbyterian missionaries to Upper Canada was the Rev. Robert McDowall, though Rev. Mr. Pethune was with a congregation in Glengarry county previous to that time. Mr. McDowall first came in 1798, and located in Fredericksburgh, though his labors extended far out to the west at times; there he married Hannah Washburn, a daughter of one of the prominent early Loyalists. There he reared his family, there he died, and heard several members of his family be buried at the McDowall Memorial church yard, on the front of Fredericksburgh. His register of many hundreds of marriages and baptisms is now preserved at Queen's University, Kingston. Thanks also to the Ontario Historical Society, a very large portion of this register has also been published.

One of the first, if not the very first Lutheran missionary, Rev. John L. Wigant, also lived and labored along the Bay region. He lived near Bath, on the Bay shore. His register of baptisms dates back to May, 1794, and of marriages to November 1796, but it is quite probable that he was in the Province at an earlier date. A meeting house was erected about the beginning of the last century in Fredericksburgh, and is still standing

and in use (by the Methodists) though it has been repeatedly renovated during the hundred years. A Lutheran register of that section is still in existence, and a copy is in the hands of the O. H. S. and may be published at a future time. No members of that church are now living in that section.

THE EARLY QUAKERS

It happens, too, that the first "Friends Society" or Quakers, was also formed in Adolphusown. Many of the early and prominent pioneer settlers of that township and the adjoining township, west and east, were members of that society in New York and New Jersey previous to the American Revolution and their forced migration to the wilds of Upper Canada. Years passed between the time of their first settlement here in 1786 and the formation of a regular society, or a "preparatory meeting" in November 1798. It is not at all probable that they were without their regular meetings together for worship till that time, for among them were men and women of real ability and piety ranking among the most intelligent of the more than ordinary intelligent first pioneers of the "Fourth Town."

The records of all the early organizations are still in existence, and in the hands of the descendants of the first worthy founders, but for reasons of their own they have not been made public. I have had the privilege of access to them and from these some facts that may be of interest to many are gleaned.

FIRST OFFICIAL RECORDS.

The Society at Adolphustown, out of which all the others in the Midland District and the adjoining counties east and west sprang, was largely composed of those who had been before connected with the New York Yearly Meeting. There are the Yearly, Half-Yearly, Quarterly and Monthly meetings, and without representatives from the higher bodies the Preparatives cannot be organized. There are first copies from the minutes of the Yearly Meeting, held in New York 1st of 6th month (June) 1797, in which it is set forth

"That this meeting was led into renewed consideration of the subject of our friends remotely situated in Upper Canada", and a committee reported "that in order to strengthen and encourage those remote members it