

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, CHIPPAWA

History of Trinity Church

The quaint and ancient Village of Chippawa, lying nestled at the junction of the Welland and Niagara rivers, has an interesting history and in all the village there is no object of greater historic interest than old Trinity Church, one of the early churches of the Province.

The earliest historical records are written on the church itself. In the beautiful old building are three tablets of historic interest. One is to the memory of William Leeming, who in 1820 was sent to Chippawa by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts. He continued to be rector of Chippawa and Stamford until his death in June, 1863. On the opposite wall is a tablet to the memory of his wife, who came to this country with him to be his faithful helpmeet in his long labors. The third of these interesting tablets is to the memory of Thomas Cummings, the first settler in Chippawa, and was erected by his son James. The family was prominently identified with the history of Trinity church, Mr. Cummings taking rank in the upbuilding of the church with Jas. Macklem father of Jas. F. Macklem, who died in 1921, Samuel Street, Wm. Hepburn, Gilbert McMicking, member of the Legislature of Upper Canada, Robert and John Kirkpatrick, Hon. Col. Thos. Clark and Oliver Macklem, father of Rev. Provost Macklem of Trinity College.

It was on September 12, 1839, during the incumbency of Mr. Leeming, that Trinity church was destroyed by fire. It was a white frame building with gothic windows and a steeple. It was the same size as the present church, for the new edifice was erected on the foundation of the old. The old-fashioned straight pews or slips were then in vogue, and these, like the church itself, were painted white, with a top moulding of brown or walnut. There was a high pulpit and reading desk on the east side of the chancel, one over the other.

The following is taken from the old minute book of the church:

"At a meeting of the parishioners and pewholders of the church of Chippawa, lately destroyed by fire, held on Monday, 23rd September, 1839, Samuel Street, Esq., chairman, and James Cummings, secretary, the following resolution was adopted:

"That this meeting having carefully examined into the causes of the destruction of the said church by fire, and having thoroughly investigated the proofs afforded them by the several