

MELVILLE CHURCH, FERGUS

Fordyce, Francis Anderson, Charles Allan, John Munroe and Geo. Slene. In 1840 it was found necessary to elect the following five elders: James Webster, John McKee, John Wilkie, William Gerrie and Thomas Dow. In August 1844 there were added: A. D. Ferrier, W. Gibbon, and W. Kilpatrick. In February 1853, John Martin, James Gerrie, James Ross, W. Clark, and James Beattie. In October 1861, George Wilson, Alex. Taylor, Adam Argo. In December 1865, Forbes Moir, Peter Dow, James Dow, James Davidson, Samuel Dobbin, John Rutherford. In February 1877, Robt. Phillips, William Castell, Peter Rennie, Hugh Black, John Richardson. In February 1888, George Tower Fergusson. In September 1890, James McDonald, David Nairn, Robt. Morrice, F. B. Anderson, William Ross, Dr. J. P. Roger. In February 1903, A. A. Armstrong, William Barnett, Jas. R. Caldwell, J. C. Templin. In December 1905, John J. Sanderson, William Mitchell, James Aitken, James Walker. In October 1912, George Cruden, William Rutherford.

During all these years there were but four Session Clerks, namely: A. D. Ferrier, who ably filled the position until 1884, Dr. Smellie acting pro tem during his absences in the Old Country; from July 1888 to December 1900, William Castell; to December 1905, Dr. Roger; from January 1906 to date, J. C. Templin.



Interior of Old Melville Church.

In the early days the Kirk Session was a somewhat dread body in the habit of exercising a very strict discipline and freely summoning members before it on charges of Sabbath desecration, non-attendance at church, quarrelsome-ness, profanity, intoxication, and still more serious offences; and an old practice was observed of calling at the church door "three several times" the names of offending parties cited to appear. It was the headle who magnified his office in the discharge of this function.