

mainly by officers of the war of 1812, comprised the embryo town. The earliest settlers arrived in 1816, three years prior to the first settlement in Beckwith. Mr. Bell, then and for forty years pastor of the Presbyterian church, wrote to father to assist him at the communion, on the second Sabbath of June, 1824. Father and mother walked to Perth, crossing a swamp a mile long on logs set endwise and not always within easy reach. Had there been any horses in the township they could not have travelled on such roads in summer. At the preparatory service on Saturday, Mr. Bell announced that Mr. Buchanan would dispense the sacrament in Gælic. The communion, an ordinance observed with peculiar solemnity by Scotch Presbyterians, attracted a large congregation on Sunday. Groups of people on foot, with here and there a man or woman on horseback, thronged the roads leading to Perth. The church could not hold them, and scores stood around the door and the open windows. Father preached in the morning from the words: "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved." He then served the first table in Gælic, and Mr. Bell served the others. At that period communicants left their pews and sat at long tables—rough boards covered with white cotton—in the aisles to receive the sacrament. The ministers would address each set, which was called "fencing the tables," and hand the bread and wine to the elders to distribute to the members. After another short address, those at the tables would return to their seats to make room for the next lot, continuing in this way until all had communed who wished. Everything was "done decently and in order," with no unseemly haste, communion services generally lasting several hours. Usually five or six tables were served at Perth, and four or five in Beckwith, in a manner that impressed the most careless spectator with the devoutness of those who obeyed the command of the Master, "This do in remembrance of Me."

Gælic service in the afternoon drew a host of people eager to hear, for the first time at Perth, if not in Canada;