

the fact, in spots and names originating in, or connected with, such settlements. The hand of war desolated those peaceful homes, and the Province passed to British rule. Soon after coming in possession of Britain, efforts were made to fill the places of the unhappy exiles by a loyal people. The abandoned homesteads on the Bay afforded a fair opportunity for such an experiment, and about the year 1761, but most probably in 1760, the first settlers made their appearance in the township. They came originally from Londonderry, Ireland, but latterly from New Hampshire, U. S., and were under the direction of Col. McNutt, the Government Agent. On their arrival they found, in the direction of Shubenacadie River, two barns standing—solitary remnants of once peaceful homes. Hence the name 'Old Barns'—originally Barn Village, now Clifton. Eight days only, after their arrival, and with a feeling that shows the character of the men, they selected a spot where our graveyard now lies, for the erection of a sanctuary. On that day, 110 years ago, Aug. 13th, 1760, happened the first death—a Mrs. Miller. She was buried on that spot around which so many hallowed memories gather.

In the year 1763 there were 60 families in and around Truro, so called. As far as I can ascertain, the frame of the old church was erected in 1766 or 1767, and Mrs. Archibald, mother of Mrs. E. S. Blanchard, informed me that it required all the help of the settlement to raise the frame, and she, with others of her sex, handled the raising pike on that memorable occasion. That the erection took place at this early day is confirmed by the minutes of a meeting on July 28, 1770, to consider what repairs were needful, as worship could not be held in barns in winter. How these God-fearing men kept the Altar fire burning is now unknown. They soon felt the insufficiency of the means, and their hearts turned to the old hallowed services from one set apart to proclaim Christ and administer His Ordinances.

It may be interesting to note that, as already stated, the first death was only eight days after their arrival (Mrs. Miller); the first birth was on the 24th October, 1761—William Kennedy—although there is a tradition that the first birth (in Truro!) was in a boat somewhere between Savage's Island and Salter's Head. The first marriage was on Dec. 6, 1763—that of James Dunlap and Mary Johnston, both of Lower Village; and the first magistrate and representative in Parliament was Major David Archibald. It is farther a tradition that the settlers were at one time compelled to use the young beech leaves to eke out their scanty supplies. But many other details highly interesting we must omit.

The first strictly church action was in 1763—a petition to the Associate Presbytery of Glasgow. But it never, though forwarded, reached its destination. This was followed by another, dated May 21, 1764, and submitted to the Synod in Edinburgh, May, 1765. The petitioners, after stating a variety of facts regarding their condition and that of the Province, declare their earnest desire for a pure form of Gospel-worship—that the doctrines of God's Word be preached, particularly the justification of a sinner through the imputed Righteousness of Christ *alone*, and Sanctification through His Holy Word and Spirit, and that this may be transmitted to their posterity while sun and moon endure.—*Thus far the work has been fulfilled.* In response to this request, Messrs. Telfar, of the Brig of Teith, and Kinloch, a Probationer, were appointed to visit Nova Scotia. Mr. Kinloch alone fulfilled the appointment, and reached Truro in July or August 1765. In September following the Committee of the Congregation asked for his continuance among them, or that another be sent. Mr. Kinloch was thus, probably, the first Presbyterian minister who labored in Nova Scotia, as this congregation is unquestionably the oldest Presbyterian Congregation in the Province. St. Matthew's, Halifax, now Presbyterian, is the oldest *Congregation*, but not oldest *Presbyterian*, as it was originally Congregational and so continued till 1783, when it joined the Kirk of Scotland. Mr. Kinloch continued to labor in and around Truro for nearly three years, and with such acceptance that he was called as their pastor. This call he declined, and returning to Scotland in 1769, was settled in Paisley. The first call to Truro, in fact the first Presbyterian call given in Nova Scotia, was given to Mr. Kinloch.

At the earnest request of the people, the Synod in August 1767, appointed the Rev. Daniel Cock, of Carsdyke, as their 'Act' expressed it, "to set out for America in six weeks or two months, or as soon thereafter as he can be in readiness, and a ship offers." This appointment Mr. Cock could not at the time fulfil, and in August, 1769, it was renewed, and the Rev. Mr. Smith, of St. Andrew's, directed to accompany him.—Soon after the appointment Mr. Cock sailed, though unaccompanied by Mr. Smith, and the terms of the appointment were, "that he continue in America one year and then return, unless the Synod saw fit to order otherwise." Mr. Cock arrived in the fall of 1769, and after continuing to labor in Truro and the vicinity nearly a year, on this day one hundred years ago he received a call signed by the following elders and adherents—names which are to-day household words throughout the Township. (The first Session was chosen between