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Sketch of the History of the Parish of S. Peter's, Weymouth, N. S.

It is only in after years that one sees the value of well-kept minutes and records of parochial interest, and when these have been negligently kept, much loss of historical interest as well as losses in other ways, is the result.

The early records of this parish are but scant, and many points of interest are lost to the present generation, but the following sketch will give an idea of the growth and extension of the parish during a period of 112 years.

The parish and surrounding country were originally known by the name of Sissibou—which is the authentic spelling according to the derivation—and was so called by the Indians and French Canadians, while the English called it Weymouth. This name being inherited from Weymouth, Massachusetts, and which in turn inherited it from Weymouth, England.

The first record of importance is that of a grant of land to the church made August 1st. 1783, when a committee was appointed by his Excellency Governor Parr, of which Sir Guy Carleton was chairman, to lay out the plot of ground granted. The survey was made, and the warrant of survey was duly returned with the record that the survey was performed by John P. De Greben, Esq., Deputy Surveyor. This lot of land was situated on both sides of the road

leading from Weymouth to Clare, and was intersected by the road running from this road to New Edinburg: but through circumstances this land has long been lost to the church.

The Rev. Roger Viets, Rector of Digby, seems to have been the first Missionary of the Church of England doing any duty in these

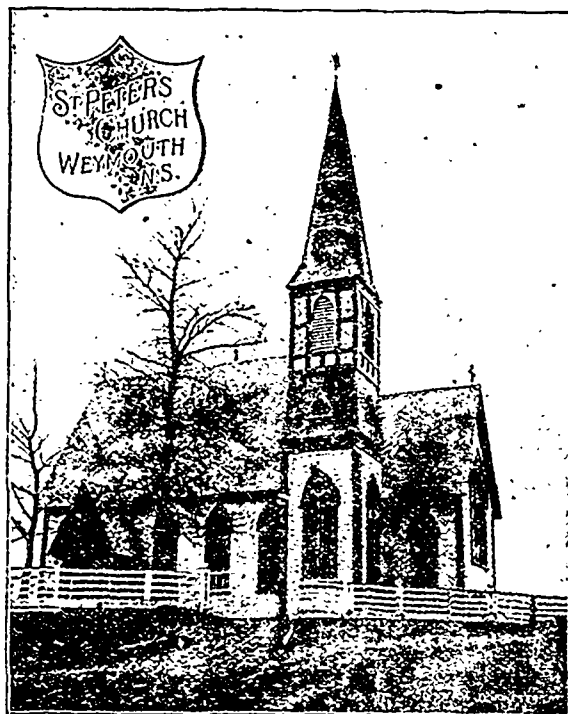
parts. He visited Sissibou or Weymouth, at least four times a year on Sundays, besides other visits, travelling, during the years 1786 to 1795 on horseback over the Indian path from Little Joggins to the shore of the Bay St. Mary. In 1795 there were 17 white communicants of the church, and 45 families living near enough to the church to attend Divine Service. In 1790 a deed of land from James Moody and Jane his wife, was executed, giving the lot of land on which S. Peter's Church now stands, to the church "to promote as far as in me lies the establishment of the Church of England in said place" viz. Sissibou.

The next bit of information that we can gather is the fact of the residence here, of the Rev. Charles William Weeks, who bought a piece of land "Lot on point," the 17, Block R, where he built a residence for himself in 1801. He left Weymouth in 1806 and was inducted Missionary Rector of Manchester, Guysboro Co., N. S., Jan. 1st 1807.

Only one entry is found during his incumbency, in which we find that a meeting was held in Church at Weymouth on Michaelmas Day 1803 for the purpose of choosing Church Wardens, when, a difference arising as to the appointment of 'the Parson's Warden' "I found it necessary..... to appoint one of the Wardens myself, and I hereby appoint James Moody, Esq. to act in that capacity," and signed, "Chas. Wm. Weeks, Missionary from the Ven-erable Society for Propagating the Gospel in foreign parts."

To this appointment there is a recorded protest, signed by Simeon Jones.

There seems to have been neither resident clergyman, nor any missionary work done in the parish from 1806 to the advent of the Rev. Alfred Gilpin in 1823.



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