

That best portion of a good man's life,
His little nameless, unrememberd acts
Of kindness and love."—Wordsworth.

THIS is not a history but an outline. By far the greater portion of those fifty years of progressive work commemorated by St. George's Church, Clarksburg and Thornbury, on September 22nd, 1912, is "Hid with Christ in God;" but it is hoped that this short record of some names and dates will assist the memory to complete the story of a noble work.

The Rev. James Hutchinson, first incumbent of Meaford, began the work in these parts. The first services were held at "Grape Grange", Clarksburg, the home of the late W. J. Marsh, in the year 1862. The pioneer work of seeking out the ten or twelve Church of England families scattered throughout the community had already been accomplished, but this date marks the period when definite organized work began, in other words the Birth year of Parish life. In 1863, Mr. Marsh placed the work upon a stronger basis by his generous gift of the present beautiful church property, situated on the boundary line between Clarksburg and Thornbury, and consisting of two and one half acres. This was followed up and completed at a later date by an additional grant of one and one half acres for the incumbent's use. In this same year, 1863, work was begun on the first Church, a frame building, a cut of which appears in this souvenir, but it was not completed until the following year. Mr. Marsh in writing to a distant friend describes the church in this quaint manner:

" We have a Church, it has a steeple,
An iron rod and a ball of tin;
I think it will hold two hundred people
If they all stand up and are well packed in."

The next step forward was taken in 1865, when the extensive district consisting of Collingwood Township, part of Euphrasia, and St. Vincent, was formed into a parish, with Rev. T. H. Appleby, M. A., as first incumbent. The present commodious brick Rectory was built during his incumbency. Part of the money