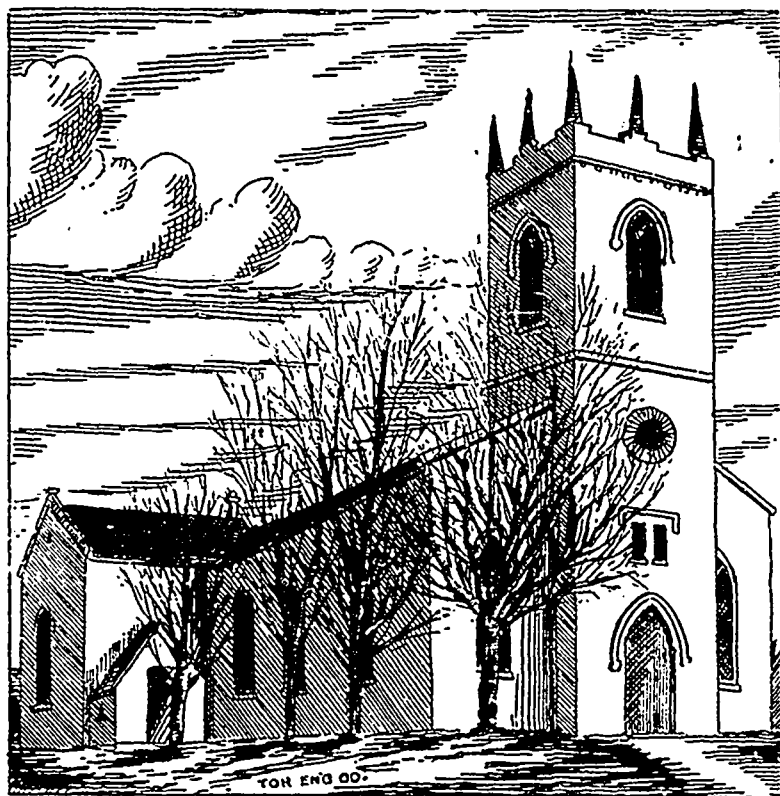




ST. PETER'S CHURCH, BROCKVILLE.

Church, (according to the church books), was the Rev. John Bethune, who, on the 12th day of January, 1816, married Andrew Jackson to Sarah Blodget. On the 7th of November, of the same year, he joined in wedlock the Rev. William Smart to Philena Jones.

Mr. Bethune appears to have taken charge of Elizabethtown, Yonge, and Augusta, and to have severed his connection with the parish in the latter part of 1818, removing to Montreal, where he was known as Dean Bethune, having succeeded the Rev. Mr. Atkinson, who removed to Upper Canada.

In January, 1819, the Rev. John Leeds took charge of the church, celebrating a marriage on the 14th of that month. It is worthy of notice, that the records first bear the date of Brockville in 1817, previous to that time the name having been Elizabethtown. The last record in the Parish Register in the handwriting of Mr. Leeds, was penned February 28th, 1825, Mr. Leeds being succeeded by C. Stewart, who at first signed all documents as "Officiating Minister," but subsequently as "Minister." He appears to have commenced his duties in April 1825, relinquishing them the same month—probably officiating until the vacancy was filled by a regular appointment. In July, 1825, the name of John Wenham appears as minister, and continues until July 25th, 1830. Mr. Wenham was rather a remarkable character, wearing a cocked

hat, and coat embellished with brass buttons. He subsequently returned to England. The next clergyman was the Rev. W. H. Gurney, who remained in charge until the middle of July, 1833. During the years 1826 and 1827, St. Peter's Church was erected, but was not consecrated until 1834, as the following minute in the Parish Register shows:

"On the fourteenth Sunday after Trinity, in the year of our Lord, 1834, and on the 31st day of August, the Church of this parish was consecrated to the service of Almighty God, by Charles James, by Divine permission, Lord Bishop of Quebec, and was then entitled 'Saint Peter's Church.' The Hon. Charles Jones presented and gave into the hand of the Right Reverend the Bishop the title deed, and also the key of the church at the same time."

The Rev. Edward Denroche appears to have been the Rector at the time of the consecration of the church, and remained such until about 1852 or 1853.

He was a man of much force of character, in some ways eccentric, and is probably still had in remembrance by some of the older of our clergy. A Mr. David appears to have been a curate or *locum tenens* after Mr. Denroche's incumbency ended. In 1854 the Reverend John Travers Lewis, then missionary of West Hawkesbury, was appointed Rector, and was an extremely popular and respected parish clergyman. For some time he held the office of superintendent of the public school of Brockville. In June, 1861, Dr. Lewis was chosen to be the first Bishop of the newly organized Diocese of Ontario, and was succeeded at Brockville by the Rev. W. B. Lauder, who soon after was appointed to St. George's Church, Kingston. At the request of the congregation, the Reverend F. R. Tane, who had been curate under Dr. Lewis and Dr. Lauder, and who is now Canon Tane, and Rector of Bath, Ontario, was appointed to St. Peter's Church. In 1875 he resigned, and was succeeded by the Reverend John A. Mulock, Rector of St. Paul's Church, Kingston, and a Canon of the Diocese. In 1884 Canon Mulock retired from the active work of the ministry, and was succeeded by the Reverend G. J. Low, who in 1887 exchanged with the Reverend F. L. Stephenson, M.A., of Almonte. Mr. Stephenson's incumbency was a comparatively brief one. He