

of the law, men were equal. The man who tilled the soil, owned the land. Many were the hardships which the early settlers of this country endured. Though they had to work and wait till they were able to build churches and schools, the inherited hope which nerved their fathers, cheered them on to acquire an inheritance they could never have obtained in their native land.

On the 12th of June, 1862, the Wingham Presbyterian Congregation was organized by Rev. W. C. Young under instructions from the Presbytery of Huron, the Presbytery of Maitland not then being organized, and for several years previous to the building of a church, the people met for worship in school houses, barns and other convenient buildings. The Word was preached by Colporteurs and College Students with an occasional ordained minister to perform the rites of baptism.

In the year 1866, a site for a Church building in the Town Plot of Wingham was purchased, situated half way between Upper and Lower Wingham, and three Trustees, Messrs. Robert Currie, William Linklater, and Walter Sloan were appointed custodians of the deed. The first Board of Managers was composed of Thomas Henderson, Peter Deans, Robert Currie and David Robertson.

The site chosen for a church was an ideal one. It was situated on a high bank overlooking the Maitland River. On that site a substantial frame was erected during the summer of 1866. In December of that year, a staff of Elders was chosen, namely:—John Linklater, John Cossar, Thomas Elliott, John Patterson and Robert Graham. They were ordained and inducted into the office on the 27th of December, 1866.

A union session consisting of Wingham, Bluevale and Eadie's was formed with Rev. John Ferguson, of Brussels, as Moderator. In the same year, the Rev. James Hastie was called and ordained as pastor of the three stations. The yearly stipend at first was \$600. Bluevale, the older and larger congregation, paid \$300, Wingham and Eadie's paying the other \$300.

On the first roll of membership were the following:—Alex Campbell and wife, Mrs. Charles Campbell, Allan Caldwell and wife, John Carr and wife, David Campbell and wife, Thomas Cruikshank and wife, John Cassor and wife, John Coutts and wife, Robert Currie and wife, Mrs. John Currie, James Cummings and wife, Peter Deans and wife, Thomas Elliott and wife, Thomas Ferguson and wife, Lawrence Fyfe and wife, Houston Gibson and wife, Robert Graham and wife, John Hardie and wife, Charles Henderson and wife, Thomas Henderson and wife, Mrs. Bennett Holmes, Robert Kennedy and wife, William Laidlaw and wife, Robert Little and wife, Miss Isabella Laidlaw, Thomas Lind