

first communion service was held in Downie. It was then dispensed by Rev. Mr. Skinner in Adam Oliver's log barn. Faithfully did Mr. Skinner labor in the new field, preaching once a month for about two years. Often under great difficulties and at great peril to his life, as he journeyed on horse-back through trackless forests and across flooded streams, he was able to keep his appointments. His work was a labor of love for the Master whose he was and whom he served, and the people were grateful to him under God for his work amongst them.

In these days, the occasional visits of such ministers as Rev. Messrs. Skinner and Proudfoot were looked forward to with especial joy, for not only did they furnish the discourse on Sunday, but they were bearers of all the news from the outside world.

During Mr. Skinner's time, many interesting and amusing events took place which tended to break the monotony of the settler's existence and keep him in touch with the external world. It is related that on one occasion when service was being held in Jas. Muir's shanty, and when Rev. Mr. Skinner was speaking with great warmth, urging upon the people their duty in regard to calling a minister, one listener chanced to glance out of one of the primitive windows, spying Mr. John McIntyre and family of Dalhousie, who were passing. Instantly the alarm was given, and the whole congregation, with the exception of two families unacquainted with the McIntyres, rushed from the building to extend a greeting to the new arrivals.

The Downie portion of the congregation embraced at first the district west to the Mitchell Road, east beyond St. Paul's,