

SARNIA METHODISM

ing the gospel widely among the early pioneers. Evidently he laid the foundation not alone of Methodism, but of Protestantism, over a goodly portion of Lambton, then part of Kent County.

For two years, Rev. Thos. Turner, as one of the old "saddle-bag brigade," did heroic service, not alone among the Indians on St. Clair Reserve, but following the "blazed trails" where isolated settlers were found, he laid the foundations on which others builded.

THE RAPIDS

"As some vast river of unfailling source, rapid, exhaustless, deep."—Pollock.

"La Chute," in English, "The Rapids," was the name given to the site of Sarnia by the early French squatters because of the rapids connecting Lake Huron with River St. Clair.

The original French squatters located along the river, south of Davis St. earlier than 1800, and when in the early thirties came the first English and Scotch settlers, orchards of old apple trees were there.

David Morrison, a pioneer in Plympton, of 1834, gives in his diary this item: "In 1834 there were only five small houses in Sarnia. Geo. Durand had a small store, and one, Allan, a tavern to accommodate travellers who were coming to look at land of the Township of Sarnia."

George Durand in 1833, Commander Vidal, R.N., in 1834, and Malcolm Cameron in 1835 were the men, whose names are inseparably joined in founding Sarnia, as each laid out a portion of his property in town lots.

The first town, or township meeting was held Jan. 4, 1836, when by a vote of 26 to 16, the village was called "Port Sarnia."

This vote was necessitated by conflicting opinions regarding names. The English wanted it named "Buenos Ayres," the Scotch, "Glasgow."

Sir John Colborne paid an official visit while the controversy was raging, and the matter was referred to him. He, as a wise man, suggested not one, nor the other, but Sarnia, same as the Township, being the ancient Roman name of Gurnsey Island, of which he had been Governor before coming to Upper Canada.

The Scotch die hard. They formed a procession on that municipal day, and carried a banner, inscribed "Let Glasgow Flourish," but they suffered defeat, and Sarnia it has been ever since. Though defeated, the Scotch continued up into