

ber. He began pioneer life in real earnest, having for his home only a primitive log cabin built by a previous settler, and a small clearing, to which he gave the name of Rushock after his former home in England. In time as settlement progressed a small but neat church was built, called St. George's, which became the nucleus of an Anglican congregation. Capt. Elmes Steele of the Royal Navy had preceded the Hallen family in the same neighborhood some three years, and he probably had much to do in getting the church under way. The church is now dismantled and nothing remains to mark the site except slight traces of the foundation. The late J. C. Steele, Division Court Clerk at Coldwater, in an unpublished manuscript dated Aug., 1898, states that he drove out to Fairvalley and visited the spot where his father, Capt. Steele first pitched his tent sixty-six years before. He then drove to the old church and was shocked to find the seats taken down, the flooring torn up and the church being demolished. He recalled vivid memories of the days of Lang Syne when his late father and such men as Sergeant Baillie, Wm. George Walker and many others who long since passed away, worshipped there. The church was in a fine state of preservation, with a first-class stone foundation and with slight cost for repairs would have stood another half century, a monument of pioneer days. He turned away in sorrow that people have so little respect for the past. Mr. Steele considered it one of the oldest, if not the oldest church in Simcoe County, as it was built while the Anglican congregation still worshipped in the Indian School Room in Orillia which was some time after the year 1832. However, Mr. Hallen was not there very long before Capt. Moberly, R.N. at Penetanguishene found him out as already mentioned, and succeeded in getting him appointed as chaplain to the forces at the Garrison.

St. George's register opens in 1835 on the 18th June, when on board the ship "Albion" off Long Island, he baptized "Thos. Albion, son of George and Sarah Porter," this being the first entry marked "No. 1, page 1." The next entry (No. 2) records the marriage of John Robertson of Toronto and Catharine Smith, at Roche's Point (now Keswick) on Lake Simcoe, by License, on Nov. 3rd, 1835. He was then probably about to start the voyage across Lake Simcoe on his journey to Rushock in Medonte. Fancy fails to picture what such a journey meant over 80 years ago, through a trackless wilderness most of the way without railway or steam navigation