

1 GEORGE V., A. 1911

independent parish about 1800, and after that date the registers were kept there, but the earlier records remained at St. Regis. At St. Raphaels, the registers date back to 1786. The above are all Roman Catholic parishes.

The early registers there are being copied by: Rev. Father Bourget, at St. Regis; Rev. Father McRea, at St. Andrews; Rev. Father Campbell, at St. Raphaels.

At Williamstown, in the county of Glengarry, in the possession of Mr. Geo. H. McGillivray, are the registers kept by the Rev. Mr. Bethune, the first minister of the Presbyterian church there. These begin about 1786. Mr. McGillivray is making a copy of these registers for his own use, and when he has completed this work, will hand over the originals to the Archives.

In the office of the Clerk of the Peace at Cornwall is the original register of certified marriages of members of the Church of Scotland, Lutherans, Congregationalists, Baptists, Independents, Methodists, Presbyterians and Moravians, from 1831 to 1865. A copy of this register has been made, and is now in the Archives.

In 1885, there was made for the Archives, under the supervision of Rev. C. B. Pettit, M.A., Rector of Cornwall, a copy of the registers of births, marriages and deaths for that parish, 1803-1846.

Churches organized in this district for many years in the early days of the country were established as missions. Consequently the registers referred to cover all these missions, and form a complete record for that portion of the old district of Lunenburg, later known as the Eastern District.

At Brockville, in the office of the Clerk of the Peace, there is the original register for the district of Johnstown, of certified marriages of members of churches other than the Church of England and Roman Catholic. A copy of this is being made for the Archives.

His Honour, Judge McDonald, of Brockville, has in his possession the original register kept by the Rev. William Smart, the first Presbyterian minister in Brockville, beginning 1811. This he has promised to donate to the Archives.

In St. Georges Parish House, Kingston, are the old registers of the Church of England, for the Diocese of Ontario. These date back to the latter part of the eighteenth century.

Search was made in the offices of the clerks of the peace in St. Catharines, Welland, Cayuga and Hamilton, for registers of certified marriages such as are in Cornwall and Brockville, but none were to be found.

SESSIONS OF THE PEACE RECORDS.

In the early days of the country the Sessions of the Peace was a much more important body than it is to-day. Not only did its members act in a judicial capacity, but they also exercised nearly all the functions that municipal councils now enjoy. In fact the whole administration of the affairs of the district devolved upon them. The records of these proceedings are therefore of special interest.

For the eastern part of Ontario these records are complete and in an excellent state of preservation. They are in the offices of the clerks of the peace at Cornwall and Brockville. Those in Cornwall date back to 1789, and those in Brockville to about the same time. Two of the earliest volumes of the Minute Books in Cornwall, covering the period 1789 to 1827, have been copied, and are now in the Archives.

In the Niagara district, diligent search was made for similar records in the public offices at St. Catharines, Hamilton, Welland and Cayuga, but none could be found. It is supposed that they were destroyed during the war of 1812-15, when the Americans invaded Canada and burned the old town of Niagara.

In this connection it may be stated that the Registry Office at Niagara was burned at that time with its contents, which included all documents such as deeds, mortgages, &c., relating to lands. In order to replace as far as possible what had been destroyed,