

## Historical Sketch Of The Amherst Baptist Church.

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WHO CAN WRITE the history of a church? There are so many incidents that go to make up its life, which have passed out of mind. It is a long story of a hundred years, and comparatively few things have been committed to writing or preserved in memory.

It is necessary to say at the outset that no one is in a position to do more than present the merest outline. The Church kept no records of its proceedings until the close of the year 1842. Steps were then taken to collect as far as possible from those then living an account of the doings of the Church for the thirty-two years preceding, and also a correct list of the members. On February 7th, 1843, the Rev. Charles Tupper, with Deacon Thomas Stokes Black, and Brethren Samuel Freeman 1st, and William Logan met at the house of Thomas S. Black on the rising ground nearly opposite the estate of Hon. Hiram Black, Upper Victoria Street, when the following facts were collected:—

The beginnings of the Baptist cause in Amherst are traced back to Henry Alline, who in his evangelistic tours visited this place in 1781 and 1782. He was a man gifted with the power of persuasion; of an all consuming zeal, with a heart yearning for the salvation of his fellow men. He made many converts here.

The parents of those in advanced years with whom the writer conversed in the first days of his pastorate here, were aroused to repentance during the visits of this remarkable man. Mr. Alline was summoned before a