

Two years after his settlement, 1818, the first church was built in Gay's River, and one at Nine Mile River in the same year, which still stands and is occupied by Mr. Layton.

In the performance of his ministerial duties Mr. Blackwood had to travel long journeys on horseback, and having considerable medical skill his physical strength was often taxed in attending to the bodily ailments of his people. As a practitioner he saved them much expense and in several cases was made the instrument of God in restoring to health and strength.

In the pulpit he was exceedingly popular being looked upon as the Apollos of the day; in manner he was kind and genial, and thus gathered around him a host of friends. During his pastorate several accessions were made to the eldership but none of them now survive.

After laboring in the Gay's River congregation for a period of twenty-four years he received and accepted a call from Tetamagouche and removed on the 1st January, 1841.

Another vacancy occurring, appointments were made from time to time during the winter by the Presbytery of Truro. In the following summer Rev. George Christie, a licentiate of the Presbytery of Pictou, was sent to supply them. His labors proving very acceptable to the people a unanimous call was given him which he accepted and was ordained in February, 1842.

At the time of his settlement Nine Mile River section was united with the Gore and Kennetcook to form a new congregation. The three sections remaining received an equal share of Mr. Christie's services until at the end of three years Lower Stewiacke feeling unable to pay one-third of the salary Gay's River assumed and paid the half.

In the first year after his settlement a church was built at Shubenacadie on the site where the present edifice now stands and shortly afterwards the first church was erected in Lower Stewiacke.

As a pastor he was faithful in the discharge of his duties, rightly dividing the Word of Truth, excelling in family visitation, and in conducting diets of examination. Under his seven years ministry the congregation prospered, and in 1845 had a communion roll of 145 and a Presbyterian population of eight hundred and seventy-five.

In the year 1849 he received and accepted a call from the congregation of Yarmouth and early in July left Shubenacadie, leaving behind many sad hearts. Four accessions were made to the eldership whilst he was Moderator of the Session, viz., Job Dart, John Williams, John Frame, and Ezekiel Pollock, all of whom Mr. Christie survives.

The congregation again became vacant and continued so for about two years, yet was pretty regularly supplied by Presbytery.

On the 31st August, 1851, Rev. David Honeyman was settled over them but only remained for three years when he removed to Antigonish. There are now two elders living who were elected in 1853 near the close of his ministry, Mr. Cameron McDonald now the father of the Gay's River Session, and Mr. William Landells ruling elder in St. John's Church, Halifax.

In the summer of 1855 a call was given the Rev. James McLean who was then laboring in Mabou, C. B. Being accepted by him he was inducted on the 4th December of that year. For 17 years Mr. McLean wrought hard and labored faithfully, often holding three diets of worship each Sabbath. He also gave a great deal of attention to Bible Classes and Prayer Meetings and did much to consolidate the congregation. In the third year of his ministry, 1858, a new church was built at Gay's River, just 40 years from the date of the first building. It stands on one of the prattiest sites in the Province. The burial ground, God's acre, is rapidly filling with risen mounds.

In the year 1872 a division was effected in the congregation. Shubenacadie and