

History of the Church.



IN 1828, the year following the cutting of the first tree by John Galt, James Buchanan, British Vice Consul at New York, paid an official visit to Guelph, and while here organized the first Sabbath School. The meetings were held in a log house on Waterloo Street, a little east of Gordon Street. Services were conducted by J. Carruthers, Catechist, during 1829, in the Priory, the first building erected by John Galt, and also in the School House, which stood near the present Grand Trunk Passenger Station.

On the 22nd November, 1831, the contract for St. Andrew's Church, which was the first Church building in Guelph, was let, the price being £250 10s. The contractor was the late John Thorp. The site was a gift from the Canada Company. It was on rising ground, where the present City Hall stands. Formal possession was given on the 30th April, 1832.

The building was frame and painted white, John McCrea, who later became an Elder, helping in its erection. It had a spire, as shown in the accompanying sketch.

The building, which would accommodate about two hundred worshippers, had for the first seven years nothing but planks supported on blocks for seats. For heat they relied upon a stove on each side of the front door, while the long stove pipes were ornamented at frequent intervals by tin pails, suspended to catch the drip. The pulpit was the shape of a wine glass, and the Precentor occupied the box in front of the Minister.

