

SEMI-CENTENNIAL

Elmvale Presbyterian Church

1860--1910

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Copies of this booklet may be obtained from the Church Treasurer, W. C. Walls, Elmvale.

PRICE 50 CENTS



ELMVALE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



REV. G. J. MACKAY, M.A., PASTOR

FOREWORD

What is the purpose of this celebration,—to make a demonstration, or receive a revelation,—to listen to one another or listen to God,—to glorify our triumphs or scrutinise our failures,—to magnify our virtues or rectify our faults? We of the present day recognise that to us has been given the solemn custody of a rich tradition, a sacred deposit of thought, and prayer and aspiration, and achievement.

It is good to encircle the walls of Zion—to tell her towers and bulwarks, and to sing as we make the joyful round, but we must also remember that we are engaged in deadly combat with an enemy who never gives quarter, therefore we welcome the crowd, but our true joy is the convert,—the convert arrested by the invisible hand that drags back the sinner so that there is a radical transformation of thought, and purpose, and character and life.

To this end let us enter into new covenants, and march on with reinspired hearts into fields of nobler service. Let us be responsive to the Divine claim then we shall be receptive to the Divine power and be willing to share the Divine travail for souls, thus spiritual life will be quickened and our celebration be as springtime with promise of an abundant harvest.

G. J. MACKAY.

Introduction

THROUGH all ages the world has recognized the Hero. For many centuries it was the man who fought the bravest fight and did the noblest deeds in war who alone was the Hero. In later periods it was the men or women who willingly sacrificed themselves for others who were the Heroes, and it is of this class we desire to make mention of in the following pages, for the early pioneers of Fios who came into the forests of the township to hew out homes for themselves, and built churches and schools, and opened up the roads and cleared the farms, are no less Heroes than they who have won fame in war, because all battles are but struggles of endurance and bravery. And surely they were brave hearts that entered the unbroken forests and there built their homes and patiently endured hardships and privations that their children might be provided for both bodily and spiritually. And we who today enjoy many blessings and privileges because of the self-sacrificing lives of those who are gone before, feel that it is our duty at least to historically record their names. Knowing that many interesting events in the history of our township are being obliterated and forgotten because of the passing away of those who took part in them, and as no effort is being made to collect and record these things so that their memories might be kept green, we have felt that the principal events in the half century's life of our congregation should be embodied in one book and preserved, and though imperfect in many respects, we have endeavored to note impartially all that has transpired. Besides those of our own congregation whose names are mentioned in this

book who took leading parts in the work of the church, we feel that it would not be out of place to mention the names of some others of the early settlers in the immediate vicinity. The late William Rowley, who has just passed away, came to Flos in the year 1831, and lived in the neighborhood of Elmvale the remainder of his life. The late Wm. Harvey came a few years later. Mr. Jas. Welsh, who still resides on lot 1, Con. 10, came to Flos with his parents in March, 1850. There was no Elmvale at that time, the village site being still a solid bush, one John McGinnis living on lot 6 at that time. The late Thomas Stone opened the first store in Elmvale in the year 1870. It would take volumes to relate all the stories that are told of the struggles and hardships. One is worthy of note; that is, that the late Mrs. Welsh many times carried a hundred weight of flour from Mr. Swan's on the 2nd Con. to their home in the bush. Hoping that the following pages may be interesting, we leave it in your hands.



Historical Sketch.

SOME short time prior to the winter of eighteen hundred and sixty a number of Scotch families settled in the Township of Flos in the vicinity of what is now Elmvale. As was the case in many other new and sparsely settled districts, churches were few in number and far apart. This necessitated many hardships and inconveniences upon those who wished to attend services in them, and those Scotch settlers, since inborn in them was a desire to worship God in the way their fathers had taught them—the way of true Presbyterianism—found it necessary to travel a considerable distance to the newly formed congregation at Hillsdale. Here a small church had been erected in 1857, and many interesting stories are told of the discomforts and inconveniences experienced by those early settlers in attending church at Hillsdale. The story is told that one Sabbath morning while some of them were driving through the bush a large tree fell with a crash just behind the rig. Many times they found their way blocked by trees lying across the road. These had to be removed before they could proceed, but as travellers almost always carried an axe at those times, these obstructions were soon removed. Rather an amusing incident is told by Mr. Alexander Strath. He and Mrs. Strath had taken one of their children out to Hillsdale church on Fast Friday to have it christened, walking all the way. After the services were over they were about to return home when the minister said to Mr. Strath that he should bear the burden part of the time. Mr. Strath laughed, but did not like to tell him that he wou'd have his burden to carry from the

blacksmith shop, since he had to carry a logging chain from there. This was the nearest blacksmith shop to his home, a distance of five miles.

George Crow, then a young student just arrived from Scotland, began preaching at Hillsdale and other points. True to his energetic nature he began looking about him for a larger field. Accordingly, he held services occasionally at Penetang, Middle Medonte, Craighurst and Elmvale, along with his regular services at Hillsdale. In the year 1859 he was regularly ordained and inducted to Hillsdale. It was in the year 1860 that services



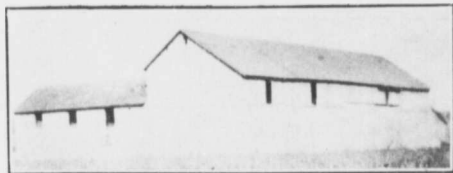
ELMVALE'S FIRST POST OFFICE

were first held at Elmvale. Elmvale was at this date a very small place, consisting of but a few dwelling-houses and a post office kept by the late Mrs. Maguire. The picture of this first post office was taken in the year previous to its being pulled down and is here reproduced.

The services first held in Elmvale were conducted in the winter months in Mr. John Ritchie's kitchen and in the summer in his barn on lot 4, Con. 8, the place at present occupied by Mr. Geo. Dickie. After the services Mr. Crow would hold a class of the children to receive religious instruction.

In the winter of 1863 and 1864 preparations were begun for a new church at Elmvale. The timber was given free by Mr. Alex. Strath, Sr., and Mr. John Dickie. Early in the spring the contract was let to Mr. W. Lillico and Mr. Robt. Dickie to build the church,

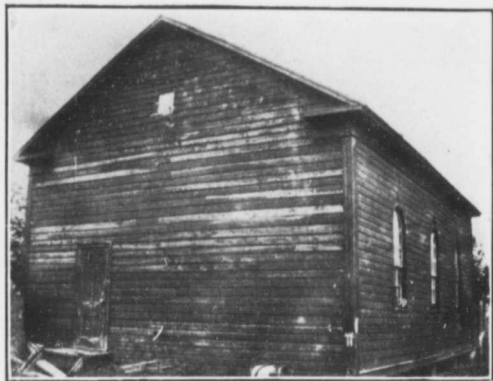
and through the kind exertions and contributions of the settlers and their friends the church was opened free of debt on the site at present occupied solely by the cemetery. The ground for this church site and burying ground was presented by Mr. John Ritchie, or "Big John," and his brother Thomas. It is said that the collections taken on that first Sabbath morning amounted to about \$14.00, a sufficient amount to provide a heating stove and pipes. The Bible for the pulpit was presented by Mr. R. Malcolm of Toronto.



BARN WHERE FIRST SERVICES WERE HELD

The people were delighted to have a church of their own in a central and convenient place where they might come themselves and bring their children. At the opening of the new church the congregation consisted of some thirteen families, consisting of Malcolms, Patersons, two families of Straths, Kerrs, two families of Grahams, Dickies, and five families of Ritchies. Mr. Geo. Ritchie, who now resides on the farm occupied by his father, the late John Ritchie, was baptized in the church on that first Sunday. Shortly after this time other families began to arrive—James and George Elrick, the Frazers, W. Mills, John and Joseph Lambie. Then later, in the settlement now known as Crossland, or Knox, Walter Hunter, John Anderson and Noah Cotton came. These three families united with Elmvale congregation and continued as members till the formation of Knox congregation. The distance to Elmvale church was six miles, which they repeatedly

travelled on foot. As time wore on other families continued to arrive until the seating capacity of their church was taxed to its limit. When the roads had been opened up and



WHAT REMAINS OF THE OLD CHURCH, ERECTED 1864

constructed to such an extent that conveyances could be used with more convenience. the members of the congregaton erected comfortable sheds for their horses. These had to be enlarged several times in the course of time. The writer of this can distinctly remember his first attendance at this church in 1881. The church was crowded and a good warm fire was in the stove. On the stove was a small tin pail partly filled with water steaming, to give a moisture to the air, which was necessary owing to poor ventilation. The pulpit was in the centre, at the north end of the building. It was raised a considerable height from the main floor and had to be ascended by three or four steps. On the day spoken of, the Rev. Mr. Craw, then quite stroag and vigorous, stood in the pulpit. He discoursed on his text from three-quarters of an hour

to an hour. The people stood up to pray and remained seated while singing. The singing was led by Mr. Jas. Paterson, the precentor, as the leader was called, who stood up before the people to "raise" the tune.

In 1890 Mr. Craw resigned the charge of this congregation owing to failing strength, since for thirty-three years he had faithfully ministered to his people, always bringing with him an atmosphere of cheerfulness and kindness. Presbytery desired to unite Elmvale and Knox into one charge, feeling that thus a strong congregation might assist a weak one. Rev. Mr. Craw resigned in September, 1890, and the pulpit on the following Sunday was declared vacant. In January of the next year the first movement seems to have been started for the union of Elmvale and Knox. Hillsdale resented this move and requested Elmvale to endeavor to remain as before. This was agreed upon at a general meeting of the congregation held on Jan. 15th. Nevertheless, in June of the same year, the matter again came up and a committee was appointed to meet with a committee from Knox to make arrangements for a union of the two congregations. The arrangements were satisfactorily made and during this year the services were conducted by applicants for the vacancy. For over three years the charge was vacant and some one hundred and eighteen applicants had been heard. Two or three times a call was extended but was not accepted. Finally, a call was extended to Rev. Mr. McCulloch, and was accepted in the early part of the year 1894.

Rev. Mr. McCulloch, though not very strong, was a very active and energetic minister, full of zeal for the Master's cause. Though he did not remain long, yet his work will be remembered while life lasts by those who knew him. Under his pastorate the

new church was built—the first move being made towards it on Feb. 6, 1894,—a Young

People's Society organized, a Ladies' Aid started and a weekly prayer-meeting held. In the early part of the year 1895, owing to ill health, he was forced to resign, thereby leaving the church vacant again.

As has been stated above, a new church was built during the year 1894. The first movement made in reference to the building of a new church took place in the year 1889, when it came up for discussion at the annual meeting of that year. A motion was introduced by John Paterson, seconded by Jas. Dickie, that a congregational meeting be called for the purpose of considering the advisability of building a new church. Nothing definite seems



THE NEW CHURCH, ERECTED 1894

to have been done till 1893, when a building site was purchased, whereon our handsome and serviceable new church now stands. However, it was not until June, 1894, that a definite move was made towards building. At a meeting held June 6, it was decided to build, and a committee consisting of David Kerr, John Lambie, Richard Graham, A. Turner, W. T. Vansickle, J. H. Maguire, Jas. Dickie, David Ganton, William Lillico, Jno. McEachern and Dr. McClinton was appointed. Under their wise management the building was completed and on the first day of February, 1895, was dedicated to God and opened for Divine Worship by that Missionary Prince of Formosa, the Venerable J. L. Mackay, D. D. In November of the year 1894, a committee of young men consisting of Alex. Strath, Jr., (chairman), M. Gordon, Geo. Dickie, David Drysdale, Graham Ganton, R. P. Ritchie, John Ganton, John Torrance, Thos. Mills, J. R. Graham, John Dickie, W. A. Ritchie, Fred Vansickle, John Andrew and W. F. W. Lent, undertook the building of suitable sheds. This work they carried out with great satisfaction and presented the sheds free of debt to the congregation.

In November, 1895, a call was extended to and was accepted by Rev. Jas. Rollins, who was settled in due time and carried on the work with marked ability. He was then just ordained, and, young and vigorous, he at once set about creating a more earnest and zealous congregation. He worked very hard, sparing himself not at all, to reduce the heavy debt on the church. He succeeded in this so far that at the close of his pastorate the debt was less than one thousand dollars. Nor did he neglect his duties to his congregation in any way, but faithfully attended to their spiritual needs for seven years, when he accepted a call to King St. Presbyterian Church, London, Ont.

In the year 1896 a Manse was built. It was a large brick edifice with spacious grounds attached. However, thinking it to be insufficient for the needs of the minister, an addition was built in 1904.



THE MANSE, ERECTED 1896

all the time of the Pastor. With this view in mind, Presbytery was petitioned for a separation from Knox, which was granted. Separation continued until until March, 1907,

In June, 1903, the present pastor, Rev. G. J. Mackay, was inducted. Under his spiritual guidance and instruction the congregation has continued to grow and he has endeared himself to the hearts of a worshipping people.

In 1904 the congregation of Elmvale felt that the work had grown to such proportions that, if it was to continue its growth it would require

when the two congregations were again united. This union was necessary since Presbytery could not make satisfactory arrangements for Knox. Besides, many of the members had a deep feeling of sympathy for their sister congregation, so when requested by the Presbytery to re-unite with Knox, the union took place and remains so to this time.

As we look back over the fifty years that have elapsed since the first service was held in a barn and we think of all the changes that have taken place in the congregation, in the community and in the nation, we would not be true to the lessons that have been taught us if we failed to recognize that careful watching over all and the guiding and blessing through all those years. From a congregation that fifty years ago had no house of worship and was only represented by a few families, we have today a congregation of 230 members, representing 102 families, a church capable of seating comfortably over six hundred people, with all modern conveniences, electric light, hot air heating apparatus, large and comfortable basement for social events, Sunday School room and meetings of the different organizations. As a community, so great have been the changes that, of those who were heads of the families who worshipped in the barn, only two are left, namely: Alexander Strath, Sr., and Thomas Graham. The others have gone the way of all flesh and crossed the Great Divide. Of those who in the intervening years assumed the duties and responsibilities of church work many have gone to receive their reward, others have gone West and are taking their places in new church duties, as men and women who have always been led by the Master.

As we recognize the changes that have taken place in the congregation and in the community we cannot fail to note the many changes which have taken place in the nation.

Time and space will not permit mention of many. When our first services were held Queen Victoria was then the Sovereign. She has gone and now in this, our Jubilee year, Edward the Seventh has passed away and George V. reigns. So time wears on and we who are spared today, as we listen to the sweet tones of our beautiful church bell ring out on the morning and evening air calling us to worship, let us remember with grateful hearts the blessings we now enjoy. While we accept the heritage that has been handed down to us, we desire to give the Head of the Church all the glory. Grateful to our Heavenly Father for those who are still with us in the church here and for his kindness to those who are waiting for us in the church above, we thank God for the blessings of the past half-century and hopefully enter upon our duties for the years to come.



The Session

THE SESSION is composed of the Minister, who is always Moderator, and the Elders, whose duty is to look after the spiritual requirements of the congregation. For many years there were only three Elders in the church at Elmvale. These had been elected at the formation of the congregation, and were: Robert Paterson, Sr., Andrew Malcolm and Walter Hunter. Mr. Malcolm and Mr. Paterson were elected by



THE LATE ROBERT PATERSON



THE LATE ANDREW MALCOLM



THE LATE WALTER HUNTER

the members of the congregation, but Mr. Hunter had been an Elder before coming to Flos, in Oro church under Dr. Gray.

Those who can remember these three first Elders can never forget the sterling character of each one; how faithful they were in every duty to the church; how ready they were to lend a hand to the needy and to give fatherly advice; how prompt to condemn every dishonorable act, and yet so kind and true; what great reverence they had for the house of God and its ordinances, having brought with them from the Old Land—the land of their fathers—the true veneration and respect for the scriptures and all their teachings. They were always anxious that all should remember the Sabbath



THE LATE JOHN
PATERSON

Day to keep it holy. As the years sped by, death claimed its toll. Robert Paterson died in 1874, Andrew Malcolm in 1899, and Walter Hunter in 1901, thus necessitating that others should be called on to assume the mantles that had fallen, namely: John Lambie, who died in 1905, and John Paterson, who died in 1889. As the congregation grew, it became necessary to increase the number of members of Session, and D. H. Kerr, J. H. Maguire and R. H. Middleton were added. Dr. McClinton and Jas. McDermott were elected in 1900 and W. A. Malcolm and Dr. J. Scott

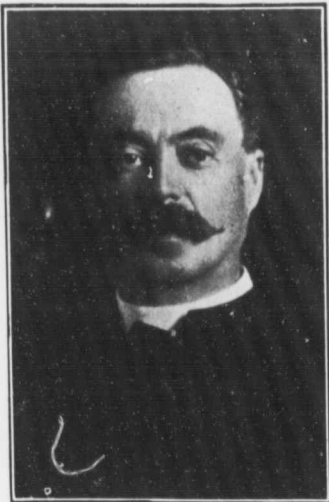


THE LATE JOHN
LAMBIE

in 1907. Mr. Maguire moved to Alberta in 1907. The Session of to-day is composed of Rev. G. J. Mackay, Moderator ; R. H. Middleton, Clerk ; D. H. Kerr, Dr. mott, Dr. J. Scott, and W. A. Malcolm.



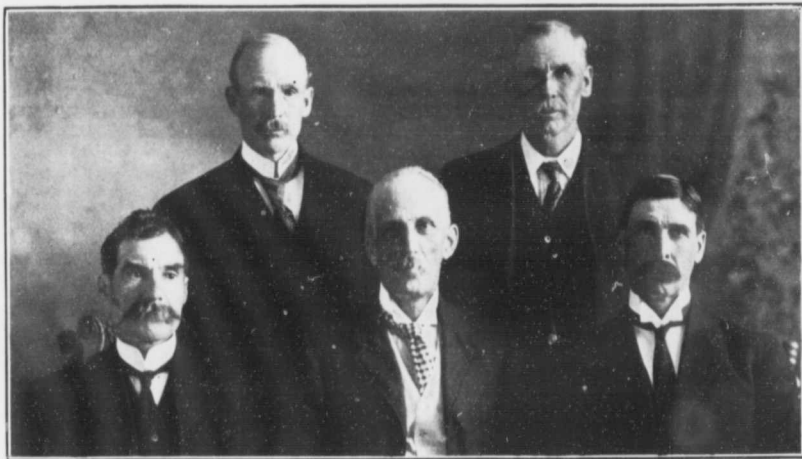
MR. J. H. MAGUIRE



REV. G. J. MACKAY, M.A.



MR. D. H. KERR



DR. J. B. H. McCLINTON

MR. JAS. McDERMOTT

DR. JOHN SCOTT

MR. R. H. MIDDLETON

MR. W. A. MALCOLM

The Sabbath School

AS has been stated previously, before the building of the first church there was no Sunday School, but Mr. Craw would hold a class for the young people after the regular church service, for the purpose of hearing them recite portions of scripture and answer questions from the Shorter Catechism. As soon as the church was opened a Sunday School was started, with Mr. Andrew Malcolm as Superintendent. He held this position for many years and had to assist him as teachers: Robert Paterson, John Ritchie, Mary Ritchie and others.

After Mr. Malcolm's retirement, Mr. John Paterson and Mr. Richard Middleton each filled the position of Superintendent for some time. After them Mr. J. H. Maguire was appointed, and faithfully performed the duties till the time he severed his connection with the congregation to take up his home in the West. Then Dr. Scott was appointed to the position, and he has likewise been a faithful and efficient Superintendent.

The officers and teachers at present are as follows:—Dr. John Scott, Superintendent; Robert Elrick and H. Carnahan, Assistants; Eric Ritchie, Secretary; Jessie Tudhope, Treasurer; Grace Walls and Geo. Drysdale, Organists; Mrs. Frank Bishop, Bible Class Teacher; Mrs. Scott, Class No. 1; Mrs. H. J. Player, No. 2; Mrs. W. J. McGuire, No. 3; Mrs. R. Elrick, No. 4; Miss M. Bell, No. 5; Miss Cassie Hill, No. 6; Miss Jessie Tudhope, No. 7; Mrs. L. Jones, No. 8. The total number of scholars on the roll is 125, with an average attendance of 72 per Sabbath.

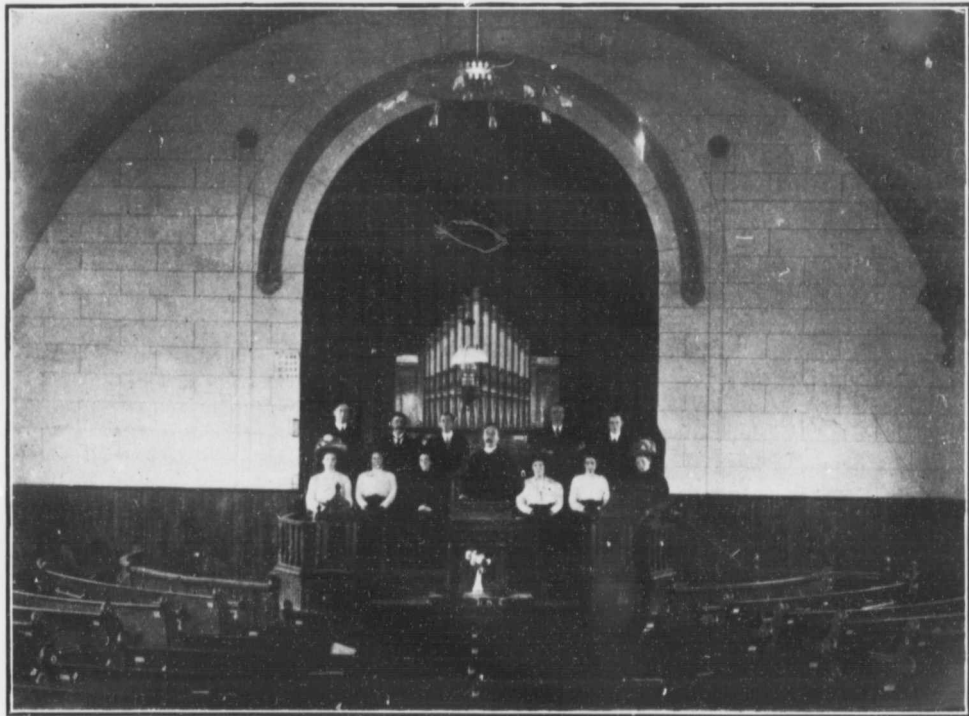
The Singing and Music

PRESBYTERIANS have ever been noted for their clinging to the old Psalms of David and for their singing of them. Although the Presbyterian Book of Praise has undergone many changes since the first edition was published, some of the old hymns being left out and some new ones entered, yet the Psalms still occupy the first part of the Book of Praise. True to early training, the congregation first adopted the Psalms and Paraphrases, then printed in the back part of the Bibles, as their Songs of Praise, and many of the old members of the congregation now long for the singing of those old Songs of Praise as sung by the congregation about fifty years ago.

At many of the first services held in Elmvale, the Rev. Mr. Craw, being a good singer, led the singing himself. Mr. John Dickie then relieved him to some extent by acting as precentor for some time. Following him we find the name of Mr. McLean, now Dr. McLean of Orillia, mentioned as a regular precentor. Mr. McLean was then the teacher of the new school started at Elmvale. He was succeeded both as teacher and precentor by Mr. Donald McCrae, now in the West, who had the honor of organizing the first choir. A choir was then considered almost unnecessary, as the congregation all joined so heartily in the singing. We have next the names of Mr. Andrew Malcolm and Mr. John Anderson of Crossland, each in succession assuming the duties of precentor, and followed by Mr. Jas. Paterson, now of Barrie, who held the position for five years and then resigned. Mr. Paterson claims to have been the first one to introduce the tuning fork—an aid in getting

the pitch of a note—into this church. This instrument is an instrument scarcely seen nowadays and I might say never used.

Mr. John Crawford, now of Toronto, succeeded Mr. Paterson, and was not long in organizing a choir which gave splendid service for quite a number of years. In the minutes of a congregational meeting dated July 19th, 1892, we find that Mr. William Malcolm was appointed leader of the choir. Mr. Malcolm held this position for a number of years to the general satisfaction of the congregation and with great credit to himself. Mr. Malcolm possesses a remarkably fine and powerful voice which can scarcely be surpassed, even in the city churches where greater opportunities are offered for training. In the same year a movement commenced for the purchase of an organ to be used in the church and Sabbath School. Misses K. Malcolm and E. Vausickle were appointed to solicit subscriptions for a fund to pay for the organ. It is needless to say they were successful in obtaining funds and a committee consisting of Mrs. McClinton, W. Malcolm and W. Mills purchased and placed in position the first organ for the church, which is still used in the basement by the Sunday School. Mrs. McClinton was the first organist and faithfully performed her duties till she resigned. Miss Bessie Rowat (now Mrs. John Houden) was appointed as her successor and filled the position to the best of her splendid ability for many years, resigning in the year 1901. Session then chose Miss Jean Burton (now Mrs. W. W. Shaw), who was a great lover of music and worked hard to improve the musical part of the service and bring it up to a standard of perfection. With this end in view in the year 1906 she requested the congregation to procure a new instrument. Miss Burton, with the assistance of Miss Jessie Tudhope, canvassed for funds and procured enough to justify



them in purchasing a vocalion, or small pipe organ, which is in use at the present time. This added greatly, not only to the musical part of the service, but also beautified the interior of the church. Miss Mabel Ritchie performed the duties of Organist very efficiently for a year or more during Miss Burton's absence. When Miss Burton resigned in 1908, the congregation were successful in securing the services of Mr. C. A. Caldwell, who has proved himself to be an artist of no mean talent, and the congregation appreciate his endeavors in making the music more attractive.

The present Choir consists of Mr. A. R. Tudhope, leader and tenor; Mr. Roberts, tenor; Messrs. W. A. Malcolm and W. C. Walls, bass; Misses Annie Burton and Bertha Mason, alto; Mrs. Mackay, Mrs. W. C. Walls, Misses Jessie Tudhope, Flossie A. McDermott and Keith Hill, sopranos. A few years ago Mr. W. H. Ritchie was requested to assist the choir by rendering the alto part on his cornet. The soft, mellow tones of the beautiful instrument vibrate through the church, and altogether the music touches the hearts of all those who hear it.



The Deacons' Court and Board of Managers

IN noting who were the early representatives of the Deacons' Court we can just rely on the memory of those who are left. Some of these helped to form the early church. There seems to have been no record kept of the first Deacons' Court. The duty of the Deacons was to look after the general business of the congregation, such as caring for the church and grounds, collecting the Minister's stipend and all other funds required for the church, for we find in the first records that were kept where the Deacons were instructed to go around at different times to collect funds for the various requirements of the congregation.

Wm. Mills, John Lambie, D. H. Kerr, J. H. Maguire, W. T. Vansickle, John Cooper, Richard Graham, A. Malcolm, Robert Paterson, J. C. Rowat and W. A. Malcolm were some of the ones who constituted the Deacons' Court at different times. At the annual meeting held January 31st, 1895, (the last meeting held in the old church, because the new church was opened Feb. 2nd), the Deacons resigned so that a Board of Managers might be elected. It was thought advisable to make this change so that some new members would have to be elected to the Board each year and the Board would have the benefit. Accordingly, the following were elected: D. Ganton, W. J. McGuire, J. H. Maguire, Dr. McClinton, Alex. Strath, W. A. Malcolm and W. T. Vansickle. At their first meeting Mr. David Ganton was elected Chairman, and held that position (with the exception of one year in which Mr. W. T. Vansickle was Chairman) until his retirement from office in the

year 1907 on the eve of his departure for the West. The following have served on the Board at various times, new ones being elected each year: J. Cooper, Jas. McDermott, Walter Evans, Jas. Dickie, W. F. W. Lent, Jas. Greenlaw, John McEachern, Jas. Drysdale, Geo. Ritchie, Dr. Scott, D. Graham, Robt. Elrick, Jos. Drysdale, Jas. Knox, Jno. McAuley, H. Carnahan, W. C. Walls, Rutland Elrick, Wm. Andrew, W. K. Ritchie, W. H. Ritchie and Dr. Campbell. Many of those whose names appear have changed their abode and are now living in the West or in other parts, and are no doubt assisting in church work wherever they are. Of those who have moved we might mention J. H. Maguire, John McEachern, W. F. W. Lent, David Ganton, Dr. Campbell, Jas. Dickie and Walter Evans. Since the removal of Mr. Ganton, Mr. David Graham has faithfully and successfully filled the position of Chairman. In a congregation the size of Elmvale a great deal of care, energy and wisdom must necessarily be displayed to successfully control the finances committed to their care. This the members of the Board have always shown and have drawn for themselves the appreciation of the congregation for effective administration.

Treasurer

MR. ANDREW MALCOLM for some years at the commencement filled the position of Treasurer, then Mr. John Paterson until his death, after which Mr. J. H. Maguire was elected and filled the position with credit to himself and to the satisfaction of the congregation for twenty-three years, he only resigning before leaving for the West in 1907. Since that date W. C. Walls has been the efficient custodian of the funds and needless to say he keeps every item in a careful and true manner and has the appreciation and thanks of a grateful people.

The Ladies' Aid

IN the month of January in the year 1895, a meeting was held of the ladies of the Presbyterian Church of Elmvale for the purpose of organizing a Ladies' Aid. A goodly number were present and the Society was organized with the following officers: Mrs. McCulloch, Pres.; Mrs. Vansickle, Vice-Pres.; Mrs. McGuire, Treas.; Miss Lillie Turner, Sec.; Executive Committee, Miss Maggie Gordon, Miss Nellie Graham, Miss Mary Ganton and Mrs. Clark. Others present at this first meeting were Mrs. Paterson, Mrs. Mix, Mrs. Burton, Mrs. Turner, Mrs. Lillico, Mrs. Dickie, Mrs. McDermott, Mrs. R. Graham, Mrs. Greenlaw, Mrs. J. Greenlaw, Mrs. Nixon and Mrs. Ritchie. As the months went on we find the names of Mesdames Bunt, Middleton, Torrance, Gardner, Houden, Whitton, McQuarrie, Peters, Drysdale, Scott, Ritchie, Miss Kerr and Mrs. Dickie added. During this first year lamps and carpet for the new church were procured and the iron fence was bought and paid for by the Ladies' Aid.

In 1896 officers were: Mrs. Clark, Pres.; Mrs. Torrance, Treas.; Mrs. Burton, Sec. In this year a lot was purchased by the ladies to build a Manse on. In 1897 officers were Mrs. Rollins, Mrs. Vansickle, Mrs. McClinton and Mrs. Burton. The Manse site was paid for at this time. In 1898 officers were Mrs. Rollins, Mrs. McClinton, Mrs. McGuire and Mrs. Burton. In 1899 and 1900 officers re-elected, with Mrs. Vansickle Vice-Pres. in 1899 and Mrs. Scott in 1900. Electric light was installed in Manse. In 1901 officers were re-elected, with Mrs. Little Treas., the ladies deciding to build a verandah on the Manse.

The vestry was also papered and furnished. In 1902 officers were Mrs. Rollins, Mrs. Clark, Mrs. Little and Mrs. Burton. The ladies papered the rooms of Manse and in August of this year made the last payment on the Manse and decided to rest for a little after their strenuous labour, with a genuine feeling of satisfaction that they had been able to accomplish so much work in this corner of the Master's vineyard.

In 1903 we find the ladies again at work with Mrs. Clark Pres. Two new names were added, Mrs. Mackay and Mrs. McEachern. In 1904 officers were Mrs. Mackay, Mrs. Clark, Mrs. Burton and Mrs. Little. The ladies decided to complete Manse by building a kitchen, which they did and soon paid for. They also assumed Knox Church share of the Manse, \$900. In 1905 officers were re-elected. In 1906 officers were Mrs. McAuley, Mrs. Bunt, Mrs. Burton and Mrs. Little. In 1907 officers were re-elected. New linen was bought for the communion table and the baptismal bowl replated. In 1908 officers were Mrs. Bunt, Mrs. McDermott, Mrs. Little and Mrs. Jones. In 1909 officers were Mrs. Bunt, Pres.; Mrs. Little, Treas.; Mrs. Mackay, Sec. This year the sum of \$210 was paid on mortgage. The same officers were re-elected for 1910.

We feel the Lord has blest us in the past and will continue to bless us if we do our part. The total contributions of the Ladies' Aid to the church funds amounts to \$3,400.00. While the congregation is celebrating its fiftieth year, the Ladies' Aid is celebrating its fifteenth, and during these years we are pleased to have been able to do something to make our church life and work what it is. We can see much work yet to be done, and shall take as our motto: "Be ye not weary in well doing."

MRS. BUNT, Pres.

The Women's Missionary Societies

THE Elmvale Foreign Missionary Society was organized in July in the year 1899, by Mrs. Cameron, Allandale, and Mrs. Webster, Jarratt's. The officers were: Mrs. Rollins, Pres.; Mrs. McEachern, 1st Vice-Pres.; Mrs. Scott, 2nd Vice-Pres.; Mrs. Burton, Treas.; and Miss VanVlack, Sec. Those present and who joined as members at this first meeting were: Mrs. McBeth, Mrs. Clark, Mrs. Gauslin, Mrs. G. Ritchie, Mrs. McFaul and Mrs. Spence, a few faithful women who felt the great need of sending the Gospel to the women and children of heathen lands.

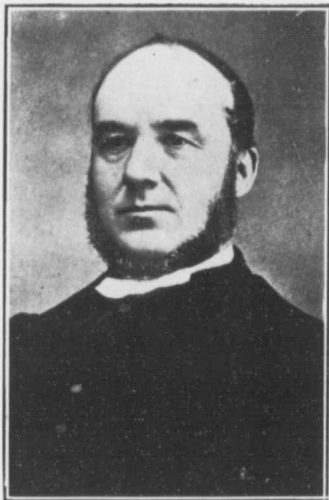
The officers for 1900 were: Mrs. Rollins, Pres.; Mrs. McEachern, Vice-Pres.; Mrs. Scott, Sec.; Mrs. Burton, Treas. For 1901: Mrs. Rollins, Mrs. Clark, Mrs. Scott and Mrs. Burton. For 1902: Mrs. Clark, Miss Dickie, Mrs. McEachern and Miss A. Kerr. For 1903: Mrs. Rollins, Mrs. Burton, Mrs. Scott and Miss A. Kerr. For 1904: Mrs. Burton, Mrs. Mackay, Mrs. Scott and Miss Dickie. For 1905: Mrs. Mackay, Mrs. Burton, Mrs. Scott and Miss Dickie. For 1906: Mrs. Mackay, Mrs. Clark, Mrs. Scott and Mrs. G. Ritchie. For 1907: Mrs. Mackay, Mrs. Burton, Mrs. Scott and Mrs. G. Ritchie. For 1908 and 1909: Mrs. Mackay, Mrs. Clark, Mrs. Scott and Mrs. G. Ritchie.

The Society has kept steadily at work during the intervening years until we come to the present year, 1910, when a Co-operative Society was organized for Home and Foreign work. Since organizing we feel very much encouraged, as so many of our ladies are interested and are all doing so well. We have adopted the envelope system and have now

over fifty ladies who have taken the envelopes. The average attendance at our monthly meeting is twenty-five and our collections have been in proportion. We have eighteen subscribers for Foreign Missionary Tidings and forty-five for the Home Pioneer. Our Thank-offering service was very ably conducted this year by the Rev. F. W. Anderson, Toronto, Sec. of the Layman's Missionary Movement. The offering was more general and larger than in any previous year, amounting to over fifty-three dollars. Officers are: Mrs. Mackay, Pres.; Mrs. Clark, Vice-Pres.; Mrs. Scott, Sec.; Miss Bell, Treas.; Miss Malcolm, Envelope Sec.; Mrs. Gauslin, Pioneer Sec.

The Mission Band

THE Mission Band of the Elmvale Presbyterian Church was organized in May, 1906, with a membership of 20. This Society was organized to train the young in Missionary work and to enable them to feel their responsibility in this Christ-given work, and the active interest these young people take in their work is most gratifying. An average of fourteen dollars a year has been raised for Missions, besides contributing to the supplies. In 1906 the officers were: Mrs. Mackay, Pres.; Gladys Walls, Sec.; Agnes Ritchie, Treas.; Norma A. Scott, Organist. In 1907: Mrs. Mackay, Gladys Walls, Agnes Ritchie and Grace Walls. In 1908: Mrs. Scott, Gertrude Tudhope, Pearl Ritchie and Grace Walls. In 1909: Mrs. Scott, Gertrude Tudhope, Spray Little and Pearl Ritchie. In 1910: Mrs. Scott, Gertrude Tudhope and Lylia Hill.



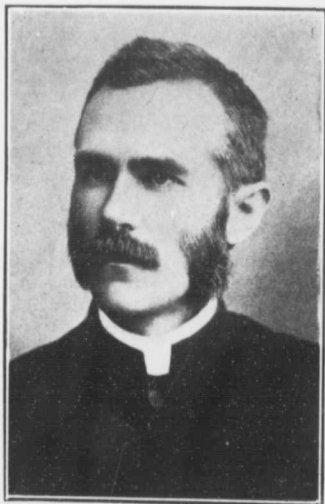
Rev. Geo. Crow

THE Rev. Geo. Crow was born at Campbellton, Argyleshire, Scotland, on June 7, 1821. When he was about five years of age his parents removed to Paisley, where he remained until he went to Glasgow University to prepare for the ministry. Here he attended the prescribed classes in the Arts course for four sessions and one in the Divinity Hall. While pursuing these studies he was employed as Missionary in the village of Hauston, Renfrewshire. Coming to Canada, he finished his course in Knox College, Toronto, in 1859. The same year he was ordained and inducted into the pastoral charge of Flos and Medonte. He had previously spent some time there as a student and on this account preferred this field to that of Niagara, where he was offered a call at the same time. His labour covered

a very wide area, reaching from Craighurst to Penetanguishene, and from Orange Hall, Medonte, to Elmvale, Flos. As the years passed by the outlying stations were dropped

off and his labors were confined to Craighurst, Hillsdale and Elmvale, and later the former was also dropped, and in the other two congregations he remained not from necessity but from choice, till failing health compelled him to resign in September, 1890. Taking up his residence in Barrie, his health improved for some time, but in March, 1893, he took ill again and sank until he peacefully departed this life on the evening of January 17, 1894. His four sons are all in the ministry of the Presbyterian Church. The eldest, Rev. W. W. Craw, is Pastor of the Presbyterian Church at Creemore; Rev. Geo. at Thornton, Rev. Robert at Fergus, and Rev. Alex. at Bracebridge.

At the time of Mr. Craw's induction to Hillsdale and Elmvale, these congregations were connected with Toronto Presbytery, Barrie Presbytery being organized in the year 1875. The Rev. Mr. Gray (now Dr. Gray), of Orillia, who is still living, officiated at the induction of Mr. Craw. The church where the induction took place was a small log building situated on the site of the present Presbyterian Cemetery at Hillsdale. The lumber for this church was sawn by Mr. Alexander Rowat of Flos (who is still living), and his father, with what was known as a whip-saw, there being no sawmills in those days. The seating of the church consisted of planks stretched on blocks. The women sat on one side of the church and the men on the other.



Rev. W. K. McCulloch

THE Rev. W. K. McCulloch was born on the 22nd of March, 1850, in Darlington Township, Durham County, Ont. He was educated in the rural schools of the county and at Knox College, Toronto, afterwards attending the Universities of Edinburgh, Glasgow and London for three years. His first charge was Kinnear's Mills, Quebec, where he laboured faithfully for eight years. His next charge was Hawkesbury, McDonald's Corners and Haltville. In the early part of 1894 he was inducted into the charge of Elmvale and Knox. Here he entered heartily into his work, but his health soon gave way and he was forced to resign in 1895. He died at his home at Oshawa on the 13th June, 1897.

Rev. James Rollins, B. A.



MR. ROLLINS was our third minister, and was ordained by the Presbytery of Barrie at the time of his induction into the Elmvale Pastorate on Dec. 12th, 1895, having taken his Bachelor of Arts degree and completed his Theological course in Queen's University in the spring of that year. Mr. Rollins is a native of Hastings Co., Ontario, of Irish parentage. He lived on his father's farm until 19 years of age. On leaving the farm he attended High School at Campbellford for two years and entered Queen's University in the fall of 1887. Mr. Rollins won all the prizes offered for "Oratory" during his college course; the scholarship in first year Systematic Theology—the subject taught by the late Principal Grant—and in 1894 was awarded the Senate scholarship for post graduate work and was Assistant Librarian and Business Manager of the

Queen's Quarterly—a magazine published by the professors. These appointments were in recognition of that capacity for practical affairs which was a feature of Mr. Rollins' ministry

in Elmvale, where he identified himself with the Flos Agricultural Society, the Public School affairs and everything that concerned the life of the community. He was the prime mover in the organization of the Public Library and up to the close of his ministry in Elmvale was the Chairman of its Board. He wrote a series of letters to The Lance under the name of "Citizen" on the question of cement sidewalks which had a great deal to do with their introduction in Elmvale. His interest in public affairs led to his being nominated as Village Trustee. He accepted the nomination, but was defeated. He was often criticised on the ground that "Ministers should mind their own business." This criticism he met with kindly toleration. His only answer was to take a still deeper interest in all matters affecting the well-being of the community. He was active in Presbytery work, and was loaned by the congregation for six weeks to the Presbytery during the Century Fund Campaign. When he accepted the call to the King Street Presbyterian Church, London, he was Clerk of Presbytery and Convener of the Committee on Augmentation.

During his pastorate "the Manse" was built, the debt on the church property greatly reduced, the tower of the church remodelled and the bell installed.



Rev. G. J. Mackay, M.A.

THE present minister, the Rev. G. J. Mackay, M.A., is a native of Scotland, and received his training preparatory to entering the University in the Royal High School, Edinburgh. He is a graduate in Arts of Edinburgh University and in Theology of the Church of Scotland Divinity Hall, Edinburgh. He was licensed in Campbeltown, Scotland, where during the last year of his theological course he assisted the Very Rev. Jas. C. Russell, D. D., minister of the First Charge, Campbeltown. Immediately on being licensed he came to Canada and has been minister of Elmvale for the last seven years.



The Cemetery

IN the year 1864 Thomas and John Ritchie each gave one-quarter of an acre of ground free to be used as a church site and cemetery. Mr. William Ritchie, father of John L. Ritchie of Saurin, was the first one buried in this place. His death occurred in January, 1865. The deed for this cemetery bore these words: "To Robert Paterson, William Kerr, Alexander Strath, John Lambie and Andrew Malcolm, Trustees of the Presbyterian congregation of Elmvale, in connection with the Canada Presbyterian Church, under and by virtue of the Consolidated Statutes for Upper Canada, Chap. sixty-nine." A peculiar wording in this deed in regard to appointment of successors to the then Trustees

is worthy of note. It contained this proviso: that in case any of the Trustees should die or refuse to act, their place should be filled in the following manner, that is to say, "by such male member or male members of the said church being in full communion therewith and of the full age of twenty-one years or upwards (being subjects of Her Majesty, her heirs or successors), as shall be elected for that purpose by the votes of a majority of the whole number of male members of the congregation of the full age of 21 years or upwards who shall be present at a public meeting of such members duly held pursuant to a notice given from the pulpit during the celebration of Divine Worship on the two Sundays next preceding the day of such meeting, which notice shall specify the place and day and hour of such meeting."

For some twenty-eight years this plot or cemetery was used. In the year 1892 it became necessary to purchase more land and three-quarters of an acre was purchased from Thomas and John Ritchie at a price agreed upon. The deed of this land was given to Andrew Malcolm, Alexander Strath, John Lambie, David Kerr and W. Mills (Mr. Paterson and Mr. W. Kerr, whose names appeared in the first deed, having been called to their reward, Mr. Paterson in the year 1874 and Mr. Kerr in 1881). This additional portion of land was sufficient for a burial ground till this year, 1910, when the present Trustees, namely: W. T. Vansickel, Dr. John Scott and James McDermott, found it necessary to purchase an acre more from the estate of the late Thomas Ritchie.

For many years the congregation gave the control and management of the cemetery to the Church Treasurer, but as years went by it became necessary to appoint a Committee to look after the cemetery. Mr. John Ritchie was appointed and under his supervision

many improvements were made. A few years later Mr. A. R. Tudhope was appointed along with Mr. Ritchie. Mr. Ritchie continued to act till his death and Mr. Tudhope till the duties connected therewith became too exacting, requiring more time than he could spare, and he resigned in 1905. In the following year the congregation appointed a Board of Managers, giving them full control of the cemetery. This Board still consists of the same gentlemen as were first named, and under their wise and careful management the cemetery is becoming more beautiful. The Board consists of Dr. McClinton, W. K. Ritchie, Richard Graham, S. T. Gardner, W. A. Malcolm, C. S. Burton, Treasurer, and Jas. McDermott, Chairman.

Here in this quiet resting spot lie the last remains of those who laid the foundation for the splendid congregation that now carries on the work they commenced fifty years ago, and as we wander through the grounds and shed tears of sorrow in remembrance of them, may our hearts be lifted up in prayer to the King of Kings with thankfulness, beseeching him to grant us wisdom to fill our places aright here, and that we may be inspired to greater deeds by the lives of those who are gone, so that when we, too, are laid away we may leave behind us some inspiration to those who come after.

WALLS BROS.

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Elmvale and Barrie