



ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN MANSE



REV. J. L. SMALL, B. A.
PASTOR

History of St. Andrew's Church, Blyth

FROM ITS FOUNDATION TO THE JUBILEE, IN OCTOBER, 1910



THE HISTORY of a congregation extending over many years is naturally fragmentary and perhaps imperfect, especially in the earlier part of it.

The history of our Church dates back to 1854, although for a few years prior to that services were held at the home of Mr. J. B. Taylor on the 9th Concession of Morris. In 1854 an attempt was made to organize a congregation and to build a place of worship. To this end a Board of Management was appointed consisting of J. B. Taylor, Kenneth McBean, Thos. Ritchie, John Laidlaw and Walter McGowan. Only one of these, the last named, is still living. Further, a Building Committee was appointed, viz.: Andrew B. and James Stewart, Malcolm Campbell, Walter McGowan and H. Richmond. Of these only Henry Richmond is living within the bounds of the congregation, and Walter McGowan has his name still on the Communion Roll although living for the present in Vancouver.

For three years services were held in Kenneth McBean's barn, opposite church sheds, and in a building on the corner where Mr. Anderson's store is at the present time. These services were conducted by Messrs. John Rennie, McKay, McRobbie and others.

On October 11th, 1857, the first Communion Service was held, the Presbytery sending Revs. Sutherland and Rennie

to conduct the service. The service was held in the building where Mr. Anderson's store now stands. On that occasion 44 names were placed on the Communion Roll. Of those names only two are in our congregation now, viz.: Mrs. George McGowan and Mr. Walter McGowan. Five others are still living as far as known, viz.: Mr. and Mrs. James Stewart, in Winnipeg; Mrs. John Laidlaw, in Vancouver; Mr. James McKinnon in Alberta; and Mrs. Charles Rodgers, in Wawanosh, a member of the Auburn church.

In connection with that service a number of children were baptized, the first name on the roll being that of William Laidlaw, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Laidlaw. Doubtless there were other baptisms in the congregation prior to this date, but the records of them are elsewhere.

The question of a permanent church building still engaged the attention of the people. Different sites for the church were proposed, viz.: a site on John Laidlaw's farm, opposite where Robt. Cockerline now lives; a site just East of J. C. Stewart's residence; also one on the East Wawanosh side of the village; but finally in 1858 the church was begun which used to stand where the graveyard now is on Dinsley street. It was not until September, 1859, that the church was dedicated. The preacher on that occasion was Rev. David Allan. The sacraments of Baptism



THE FIRST CHURCH



MRS. GEO. MCGOWAN

as to permit a re-arrangement of the whole district.

On September 19th, 1860, Rev. S. Young was ordained and inducted as pastor of Hullett and Manchester, and on Nov. 6th, 1862, Rev. A. McLean was ordained and inducted as pastor of Blyth and Belgrave. There were 66 members of Blyth congregation at the time of Dr. McLean's induction, but only 9 of them are members of the congregation to-day, viz: Mr. Walter McGowan, Mrs. George McGowan, Mr. Lachlan McQuarrie, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh McQuarrie, Mrs. James Logan, Mrs. James Dodds, Mrs. J. B. Taylor and Mrs. Gregor McGowan. Mr. McLean began his pastorate with 66 members and closed it 40 years later with 38 members.

and the Lord's Supper were administered on the same day.

On October 19, 1850, a call was extended to Rev. Alex. Currie, and Mr. Currie was settled as the first regular pastor of Blyth, Hullett and Manchester early in 1860, hence our Jubilee services this year (1910.)

On September 29th, 1861, the first Elder of the Blyth congregation was ordained, viz., Wm. McKenzie.

Mr. Currie's pastorate continued until 1862 when he was succeeded by Rev. John Stewart, who resigned in 1865 so

The first Baptism after Dr. McLean's settlement was Charles K. Taylor, who is a member of our congregation now, serving on the Board of Management for several years and a member of the Jubilee Committee.

On February 29th, 1877, Blyth and Belgrave were formally separated by decision of Presbytery. In the same year the present church was erected and dedicated in January, 1878, the late Rev. Dr. McVicar, of Montreal, preaching the dedicatory sermon.

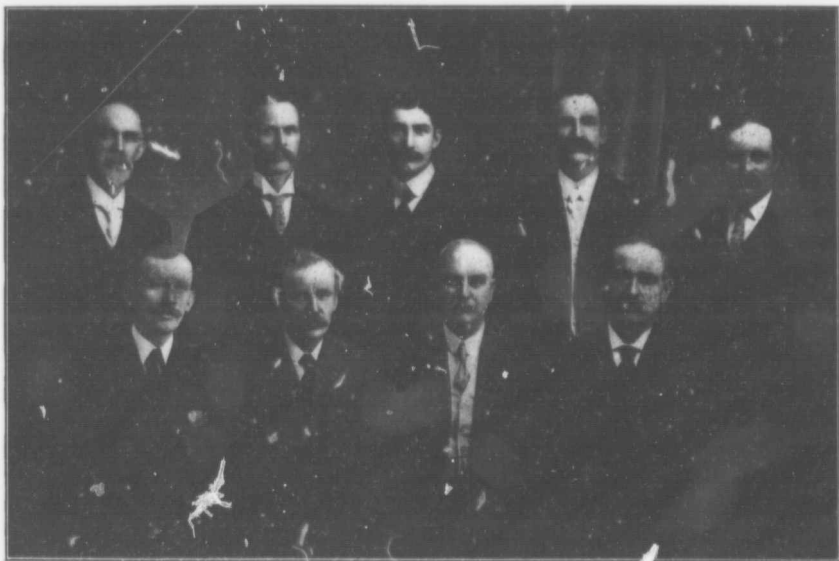
Dr. McLean's long pastorate witnessed a steady growth. Many names might be mentioned, such as that of the late James Barr, sr., Malcolm McKellar, James McGowan (Chair-

man of Board for several years), D. B. McKinnon (for 30 years Chairman of Board of Management), and Lachlan McQuarrie (for 9 years Treasurer of Church.) The last named is still living at the advanced age of 87 years and able to work every day at his occupation as a builder.

Other church workers are mentioned in the historical sketches of Sabbath School and Missionary Societies. Many other workers also could be referred to but space will not permit us to mention all. The Lord will reward all His faithful ones.



MR. WALTER MCGOWAN



BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

Top row — Thos. Brown, J. McMillan, J. Richmond, J. Stothers and James Logan.
Bottom row — Jas. Sims, R. B. McGowan, J. M. Hamilton and Duncan Laidlaw.

On November 6th, 1906, Rev. Dr. McLean retired from the pastorate after a faithful and successful ministry of 40 years. He now resides in Goderich and is still enjoying a fair measure of health and vigor. Dr. McLean has done well for the Presbyterian Church. Besides his 40 years of faithful service he has given one son to the ministry, viz., Rev. Walter I. McLean, of Guthrie, in Sarnia Presbytery; and three daughters, viz., Mrs. (Rev.) McVicar, of Franklin, Man.; Mrs. (Rev.) McVicar, of Esson and Willis, in Barrie Presbytery; and Mrs. (Rev.) Ure Stewart, of Fort Wayne, Mich. Mrs. McLean was an active worker in the different organizations, especially in that of the W. F. M. S.

On the 18th of April, 1907, Rev. J. L. Small, B. A., was inducted into the pastorate, and associated with him in the Session are Messrs. McQuarrie, Somers, Anderson, Brigham,

Jacobs, Gardiner, Elder and Cutt. The Board of Management at present consists of R. B. McGowan, (Chairman), J. M. Hamilton (Secretary-Treasurer), Jas. Sims, John McMillan, Jos. Stothers, Jas. Logan, Jas. Richmond, Duncan Laidlaw and T. Brown. Other Treasurers, after Lachlan McQuarrie, have been D. B. McKinnon, Dr. Milne, A. McNally (now of Brantford), and the present occupant of the office.



REV. JOHN RENNIE

On the 15th of July of last year (1906) the Manse, stable and church sheds were destroyed by fire. This was a heavy loss, but with commendable zeal the people set at work to re-build. The following Building Committee was appointed:—John Brigham (Chairman), A. Elder (Secretary) Jos. Carter, Duncan Laidlaw and David Cowan. A canvas of the congregation was made with the result that it is expected the splendid new Manse and sheds will be entirely paid for by the end of this present year. Great credit is due to the Building Committee for their skill and diligence.

At the annual meeting in January of this year it was decided to hold Jubilee services in October and the following committee was appointed to make all arrangements:—Rev. J. L. Small (Chairman), A. Elder (Secretary), Messrs. Ross, Carter and A. Taylor, and Messrs. R. B. McGowan, James Cutt, C. K. Taylor and J. M. Hamilton.

During Mr. Small's pastorate 95 have been added to the membership, but 85 have removed during the same period, hence there is a net gain of only 10, making the membership 318.



REV. ALEXANDER CURRIE

THE SESSION

THE first Elder was William McKenzie, ordained on September 26th, 1861.

On the 2nd of December, 1866, Messrs. Hugh McQuarrie and Walter Scott were ordained. Mr. McQuarrie is still a member of Session after almost 44 years of service.

On the 16th of December of the same year, Mr. Andrew B. Stewart was ordained to the Eldership.

On the 11th of April, 1875, Messrs. William McIntosh and Richard Somers were ordained and they, together with Andrew McCaa, a former Elder, were inducted to the office of the Eldership. Mr. Somers is still a member of the Session and for many years has faithfully performed the duties of the Clerkship.

On the 2nd of May, 1880, Messrs. James McGowan, Donald Fraser and John S. Laidlaw were ordained to the office.

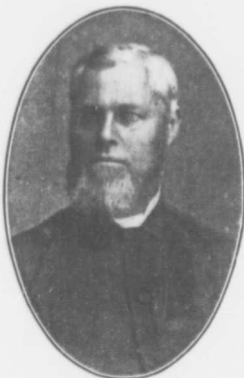
On March 9th, 1885, Messrs. Robert Laidlaw, William Pollock and John Brigham were ordained. Mr. Brigham is still a member of the Session.

On January 5th, 1890, Mr. John Moffatt, a former Elder was inducted and Messrs. (Dr.) Ferguson, Albert H. Jacobs and James A. Anderson, were ordained and inducted. The two last named are still

members of Session. On the 16th of the same month, Mr. Neil McDonald, detained by inclement weather on the 5th of the month, was duly ordained and inducted.

In August, 1907, Messrs. Elder and Cutt were ordained and inducted and Mr. Gardiner (formerly an Elder in Exeter) was inducted to the office. These brethren are still holding office.

The Session as now composed is as follows:—Rev. J. L. Small, B. A., Moderator; Mr. Richard Somers, Clerk; Mr. Jas. A. Anderson, Treasurer; and Messrs. McQuarrie, Brigham, Jacobs, Gardiner, Elder and Cutt.



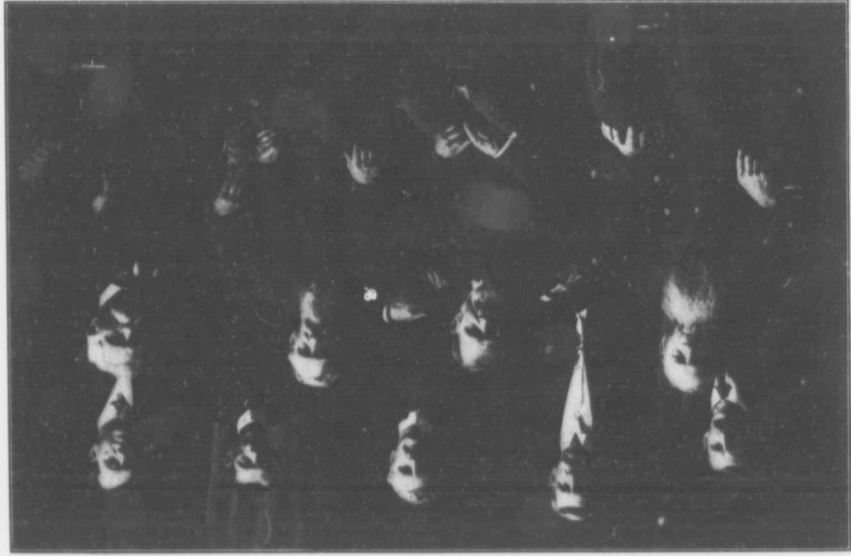
REV. JOHN STEWART

CHURCH PROPERTY

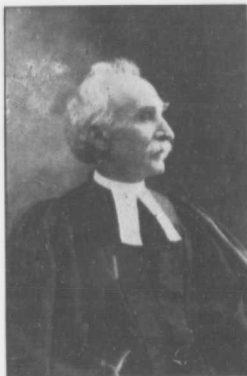
St. Andrew's property is situated on the corner of Binsley and Mill streets and along Mill street to Drummond street, and is valued at \$12,500. It is confidently expected that the property will be entirely free of debt by the end of this year.

Top row — James Curt, A. Eble, Roy J. L. Small, A. Jacobs and P. Garlmer.
Bottom row — R. Somers, H. McGehee, J. A. Anderson and John Brigham.

SESSION



THIS SOCIETY was organized in 1885, by Mrs. James Fair, of Clinton, at that time the Presbyterian President of the Society. The first officers were as follows:—President, Mrs. (Rev.) McLean; Treasurer, Mrs. (Dr.) Sloan; Secretary, Mrs. Curtis. Subsequent Treasurers have been the late Mrs. McKinnon, the late Mrs. Hamilton, Mrs. McNally, now of Brantford, and the present occupant of the office, Mrs.



REV. DR. McLEAN

Gardiner. On the retirement of Mrs. McLean from the office of President, Mrs. Elder was chosen and has held the position ever since with the exception of a portion of one year when Mrs. McCominus, now of San Diego, Cal., U. S., occupied the chair. Mrs. Curtis has been the very efficient Secretary for the entire 25 years of the Society's existence. Mrs. Gregory McGowan has been a faithful member from the organization of the Society. The following are Life Members:—Mrs.

(Rev.) McLean, Mrs. Hugh McQuarrie, Mrs. John McMillan and Miss Cassie McMillan.

The first year \$37 were contributed, but ever since the sum of \$100 or more every year, reaching beyond \$100 on some occasions. We are safe in saying that at the very least \$2,800 have been contributed to Foreign Missions by this Society, and in addition a valuable bale of clothing every year to the North West Indians. The present membership is 57.



MRS. (DR.) McLEAN

McLean Mission Band

It was organized in 1906 by Mrs. Alex. McKellar and called after Rev. Dr. McLean. The Band is doing good work among the boys and girls in the interests of Missions. The present officers are:—President, Mrs. Gardiner; V. Presidents, Mesdames Curtis and Small and Miss Murray; Secretary, Hazel Bennett; Treasurer, Gladys Cutt. Mrs. McKellar was President of the Band for 1906, 1907 and 1908, and a splendid worker. Membership, 46. Raised last year, \$52.50.

DATING away back to the beginning of the congregation's history and, even before there was a Sabbath School. The first Superintendent was Andrew B. Stewart, whose photo. appears on this page and the first Bible Class teacher was John B. Taylor, afterward the Rev. J. B. Taylor. These were succeeded in their respective offices by Hugh McQuarrie and Mr. Warner. Mr. McQuarrie held the office for 30 years; is still living; is a member of the Session and is held in very high respect in the congregation and community. Succeeding Mr. McQuarrie there were Messrs. McKellar and Habkirk.

Mr. Elder succeeded Mr. Habkirk as Superintendent and occupied the position for five years. The present officers are:— Supt., Richard Somers; Treasurer, John McMillan; Secretary, John Somers; Organist, Gladys Cutt; Assistant Secretary and Organist, Hazel Bennett; Librarians, Messrs. Cowan, Sims and McMillan; Teachers, Rev. J. L. Small, Mesdames Elder and Curtis, Misses McTavish, McArter, Annie Cowan, Murray and Mr. Gardiner.

The Bible Class is organized with Mr. Elder as President; Mr. Cutt as Vice Pres.; Rev. J. L. Small as Teacher; Miss Janet Steinhoff, Secretary; Miss Fanny Mason, Organist; Roy Denholm as Librarian. The name of class is "Excelsior."

There is a membership in Bible Class of 37 and in the rest of the School 108, a total of 145.

Mr. Jos. Habkirk, in addition to holding the office of Superintendent of Sabbath School, was also Treasurer of the congregation for several years, and a faithful officer.



ANDREW B. STEWART





*SOME MEMBERS OF THE LADIES' AID
AND W. F. M. S.*

The Christian Endeavor Society

THIS SOCIETY was organized in 1885 under the name of "The Hopeful Gleaners." The young people at that time felt the need of an organization in which their talents might be developed and useful service rendered. Through the 25 years of the existence of the Young People's Society there has been good work done, a zeal and activity displayed that have been cheering to pastor and people. In 1885 the name of the organization was changed to "Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor," and by that name it is still known. The Society has had a large number of members, but the passing years with their change have affected the membership very materially, although the Blyth Society is among the strongest in Huron Presbytery. There is no doubt that a great many young people owe their beginning in

religious service to their membership in this Society. Ex-members are to be found now far and near. Dear friend, if you were once a member and now unable to attend, perhaps far away, remember your pledge of long ago and be true.

The officers at present are:—

President	Miss Sadie Somers
Vice-President	Mr. Roy Donholm
Recording-Secretary	Miss Janet Steinhoff
Treasurer	Miss Emma Leith
Corresponding-Secretary	Miss Tena Cutt
Organist	Miss Gladys Cutt
Conveners of Committees	Rev. J. L. Small, Misses Anderson, Steinhoff and Willows and Mr. John Somers.

The Ladies' Aid Society

ORGANIZED in 1877 with the following officers:—Mrs. McKinnon, President; Mrs. (Rev.) McLean, Treasurer, and Mrs. Gracey, Secretary. Associated with these officers there was the following Executive committee, Mesdames John Laidlaw, Woodrow, Geo. Stewart and R. McNaughton. Of the older members of this Society Mrs. McQuarrie and Mrs. Dadds were very active and helpful in the good work and are still faithful members.

This Society has done much to aid the Board of Manage-

ment financially and to furnish and beautify the interior of the church. During the years of the Society's existence a total of \$5000 at a very lowest estimate, has been raised.

The Society is still in a flourishing condition with the following officers:—

President	Mrs. J. C. Ross
Secretary	Mrs. Jos. Carter
Treasurer	Mrs. Arch. Taylor

The cost of the church was in the neighborhood of \$7000.00.

The Manse destroyed by fire on July 15th, 1900, was erected in 1870.

The architect was Mr. Procter, of Wingham. The contractors were Smith, Buchanan, Harland and Steinhoff.

Mr. J. B. Taylor, a faithful member in the early days, afterwards entered the ministry and gave good service for many years.

The congregation adopted the monthly envelope system for Missions in March, 1900. Mr. N. Cuming is Secretary for this department.

During the 40 years of Dr. McLean's pastorate 683 were added to the membership and 385 removed. There were 532 baptisms and 250 marriages.

The flat stone used as a door sill in the new church was brought from Brussels by the late George McGowan, a faithful member of the congregation for many years.

The opening of church was in January 1878, with the late Rev. Dr. McVicar, of Montreal, as the preacher. There was a Tea Meeting held on the Monday evening following.

The church organists have been, Miss Stewart, Mrs. Jas. McMurchie, Mrs. Gelles, Miss Jeanie Habkirk, Miss Ina Taylor, Mrs. Dr. Stuart, Mrs. Stalker and Miss Emma Leith.

On Nov. 4th, 1900, Dr. McLean's farewell Sabbath, the texts were Numbers 10:29-32 and Phil. 1:27. The former text was the same as Dr. McLean preached from at his first service in Blyth in 1866.

The corner stone was laid on Dominion Day, 1877. In the receptacle there is an historical sketch and the usual papers and coins; also a subscription list with the names of all those contributing more than 50 cents.

The Building Committee of the present church were:—James Barr (Chairman), Dr. Sloan (Secretary), Jas. McGowan, John S. Laidlaw, George Stewart, W. Scott, John Gosman and Wm. Drummond (Treasurer).

There have been a great many precentors and choir leaders, among them we name the following:—Messrs. Weatherston, Fraser, Halliday, Oakes, J. McKinnon, D. McGowan, Watson, McGill, Moser, Poplestone, Tyndall, Mrs. (Rev.) Small, McKay and Cook.

Two sons of the congregation have entered the office of the Christian Ministry, viz.—Rev. R. W. Ross, M. A., of Fort Massey church, Halifax, and Rev. W. I. McLean, M. A., of Guthrie, Sarnia Presbytery. Both are doing creditable work and are highly esteemed.

The following letter from Rev. John Rennie, of Sarnia, is worthy of a place in this Booklet:—

REV. J. L. SMALL,

Blyth, Ont.:

DEAR MR. SMALL,—Thanks for the kind invitation sent to me to attend the Jubilee Celebration of St. Andrew's church, Blyth. I should be pleased to go if I were physically able for the undertaking. It would be specially interesting to me to be present, and to recall experiences which I had when, in the Summer of 1856, I went in once a fortnight, from Clinton on horse back and preached in a little log barn at the corner of the township of Morris among the new settlers who were there then, before the village of Blyth had an organized existence. The infirmities of age have so increased of late that I cannot undertake the necessary effort now. Friends will please excuse me. I rejoice in the growth and prosperity of the Blyth congregation and I sincerely pray that all concerned may have a rich continuance of the Divine blessing.

Yours with best wishes,

JOHN RENNIE.

Sarnia, Sept. 19, 1910.



THE CHOIR

Top row—R. M. McKay, Miss Nichol, Miss Anderson, Miss Leith, Mrs. Small, W. Jacobs, Jas. Cutt, Jr.
Second row—Miss S. Somers, Miss M. Nichol, Miss Brigham, Mrs. Jas. Sims, Miss G. Cutt, Miss Cowan,
Miss Mason, Miss J. Steinhoff.

1860

Jubilee Services

1910

OF

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH, BLYTH

ON

SABBATH, OCTOBER 9th, 1910

REV. A. LOGAN GEGGIE

Pastor of Dunn Avenue Church, Toronto, will preach at 11 o'clock a. m. and in the evening at 7 o'clock.

Monday Evening, October 10th

A Grand Tea-meeting will be held in the basement of the church when supper will be served from 5.30 to 8 o'clock, after which brief congratulations will be given by resident Ministers; Rev. Dr. McLean, of Goderich; Dr. Sloan, of Toronto; and greetings from Huron Presbytery by Rev. D. Carswell, Moderator.

REV. A. LOGAN GEGGIE will deliver his attractive Lecture, "The Three Nations—English, Irish and Scotch," on Monday evening. Mr. Hazaldine, a noted Tenor singer from Toronto, will give selections suitable to the subject of the Lecture.

A. E. COOK, of Goderich, will have charge of the Choir.

A Special Offering will be taken on Sabbath.

Admission to Tea-meeting and Lecture—Adults 35c., Children 20c.

A Cordial Invitation Extended to All.

This Souvenir Booklet will be on sale the evening of the Tea-meeting and afterwards at J. M. Hamilton's Drug Store and Jas. Cutt's grocery.

A. ELDER,

Secretary Jubilee Committee.

REV. J. L. SMALL, B. A.,

Chairman.