

Erskine  
Church  
Semi-  
Jubilee

1880-1905

1572

# Erskine Presbyterian Church

Hamilton, Canada



Semi-Jubilee, 1880-1905

Brief Histories of the Church, its Ministers  
and Organizations

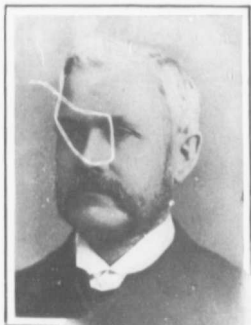
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REV. THOMAS SCOULER

THOMAS SCOULER was born on the 10th of July, 1843, at Strathlaven, Lanarkshire, Scotland. In this place and the City of Glasgow, his childhood and youth were spent. His parents were earnest, God fearing people, closely connected with the United Presbyterian Church, of Scotland. His mother died when he was twelve years of age.

While a youth, he became deeply interested in religious work, frequently addressing meetings of a religious character in his native town. For some years he labored as Home Missionary in Hamilton, Scotland, and in Anderston Presbyterian Church, Glasgow. When leaving for Canada in 1874, the congregation of Anderston showed their appreciation of his valuable services by presenting him with a handsome Bible and a purse of gold.

Mr. Scouler obtained his theological training at Knox College, Toronto. Besides doing mission work in Toronto and in various parts of Ontario, he was engaged for eight months in what was then known as the Pearl Street Mission, Hamilton, in connection with Central Church.

In December, 1880, Mr. Scouler was ordained and inducted the first minister of Erskine Church. He labored with very marked success, the present large church being built during his pastorate. He faithfully laid the foundations of the organization of the Church, and the influence of his life and teaching will be felt as long as the Church remains.

Mr. Scouler, in 1886, accepted a call to St. Andrew's Church, New Westminster, British Columbia. Here also a large new church was built.

For the last seven years of his life he was chaplain in the British Columbia Penitentiary, but continued his active interest in the New Westminster Presbytery. He was at one time Moderator of the Synod of British Columbia. After an illness of three months, he died on the 9th May, 1904, leaving a widow and one son to mourn his loss.



REV. WILLIAM J. DEY, M.A.

WILLIAM J. DEY is a native of Hawkesbury, Ontario, and spent his boyhood in Glengarry. He received his college training at McGill University and studied theology at the Presbyterian College, Montreal. He was a gold medalist in Natural Science and Theology.

For two years he was Principal of the British and Canadian School, Montreal. His first pastoral charge was Spencerville, Presbytery of Brockville, where he ministered for seven years with marked success. A new church was built here and a new station opened, a stone church erected at Ventnor, and both of these churches were free of debt before he left.

In 1882 Mr. Dey was Dean of Residence and Lecturer in the Presbyterian College, Montreal, which position he gave up in 1886 to return to the active pastorate.

He was called from evangelistic work in the Maritime Provinces and Ontario, to Erskine Church in 1887. During his labors here some of the most important organizations of the church were formed, such as the Christian Endeavor Society, the Mission Band and the Choir. The Auxiliary of the Women's Foreign Missionary Society and the Ladies' Aid Society, which had existed under other names, were constituted in their present form.

Mr. Dey, in December, 1889, accepted a call to St. Paul's Church, Simcoe, where he now labors, surrounded by an earnest and growing congregation, who dearly love their pastor.

Mr. Dey is Chairman of the International Committee on Psalms, a committee formed for the purpose of preparing a metrical version of the Psalms.



REV. J. G. SHEARER, B.A.

JOHN G. SHEARER was born in Blandford, Oxford County, on the 9th of August, 1859. Mr. Shearer was educated at Ratho Public School, Weston High School, Brantford Collegiate Institute and Toronto University, where he graduated in Arts in 1879, with high honors in Mental and Moral Science, Civil Polity and Logic. He graduated from Knox College, Toronto, in 1888, having obtained several prizes and scholarships.

He began his ministry at Onondago, Brant County. Subsequently his labors were much blessed in missions at Fort William.

On June 5th, 1888, on completion of his theological studies, Mr. Shearer was ordained and inducted to be pastor of Knox Church, Caledonia. For three years he labored there most successfully. Only after the claims of the larger field of Erskine Church had been pressed upon him could he be persuaded to accept a call there, which he did, and was inducted on the 5th February, 1891.

Mr. Shearer's ministry extended over a period of exactly nine years and was marked with great success. His ability as an executive head and organizer was such that to-day it is stated there exists in Ontario no better organized church than Erskine.

During this pastorate the commodious new Sunday School building was erected and the splendid pipe organ put in the church.

On February 5th, 1900, he bade farewell to the congregation to accept the secretaryship of the Lord's Day Alliance of Canada. To-day his name is known and respected over all the Dominion as the leader of the Christian forces that are seeking to conserve the weekly day of rest for all men.



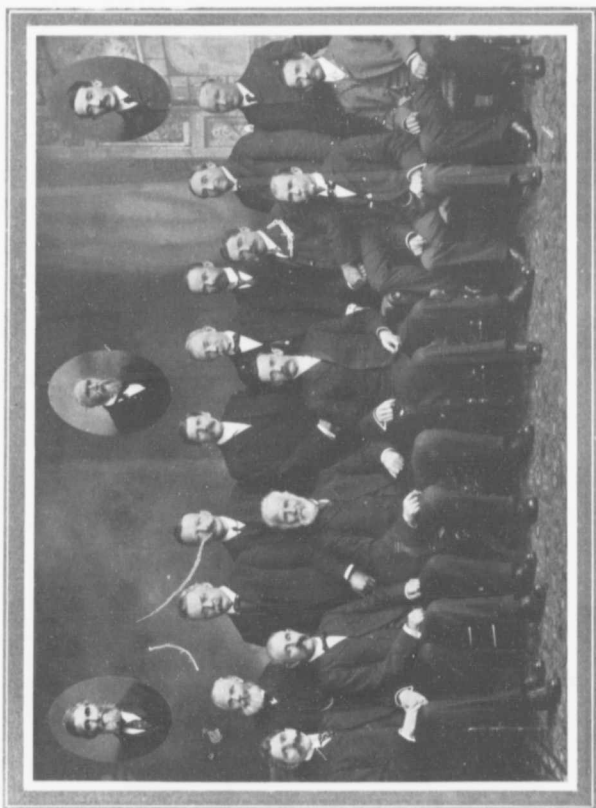
REV. ROBERT MARTIN

ROBERT MARTIN, the fourth pastor of Erskine Church, was born in Scotland on October 9th, 1867. He passed the first fourteen years of his life in the city of Edinburgh, receiving his early education in James Gillespie's School and Daniel Stewart's College for Boys. His father, a builder and contractor, brought his family to Canada in 1882, and settled on a farm in the neighborhood of Owen Sound, where he still resides.

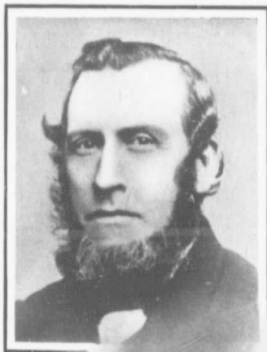
Mr. Martin continued his studies in the Owen Sound Collegiate Institute, and for four years was the teacher of a village school in the County of Grey. He belonged to the class of '95, Toronto University, and graduated from Knox College in 1897. In undergraduate days he gained some experience in the mission field under the Knox College Student's Missionary Society, and the Home Mission Committee of the Church, laboring in Muskoka and within the bounds of the Presbyteries of Owen Sound, Hamilton and Guelph.

His first pastoral charge was at Markham, in the Presbytery of Toronto, where he was ordained and inducted in October, 1897. He was called to Erskine Church in May, 1900, and inducted on June 28th following. During his pastorate the church edifice was remodelled at a cost of \$3,500, and the congregation experienced a steady growth.

At the end of February last, 1905, he said farewell to the city of Hamilton, and entered upon his duties as minister of Knox Church, Stratford, Ontario. He is at present a member of the Senate of Knox College, and of the Sabbath School Committee of the General Assembly.



SESSION



HUGH YOUNG

## EARLY DAYS

IN the early 70's the congregation of Central Church decided to establish a mission in the north-west part of the city, as quite a large part of their membership was drawn from that section, and they thought it would be an excellent opportunity to advance the cause of Christ in that part of the city. Previous to that there were only two Sabbath Schools

in the West End—Zion Sunday School and an Episcopal School on King Street, near the corner of Queen Street, which became the nucleus of All Saints' Church. Central Church secured a lot on the west side of Pearl Street, between Florence and York, where now stand the houses known as 117-119 Pearl St. North. In March, 1874, the late John Waugh, contractor, secured the contract, and a very neat and substantial structure was erected and opened, with the late Hugh Young as Superintendent. At the first session of the school there were 84 pupils present, and from an old memorandum we glean that on February 20th, 1876, the number on the roll was 204. The late John Wallace taught the first Bible class, and the late Duncan Robertson led the school in the singing. Among the first teachers were Misses Alexander, Service, Crawford, Sammons, Cox, McLaughlan, Young, and Mrs. Betcone and Mrs. Brown, also Messrs. Wallace, Tate, Balfour, Stewart, Betcone, Jonathan Ames, Nichol, Duncan Robertson and Michael Turnbull. A story is told that one of the gentlemen teachers was in the habit of bringing a strap with him on Sunday afternoon with which to enforce the lessons he sought to teach.

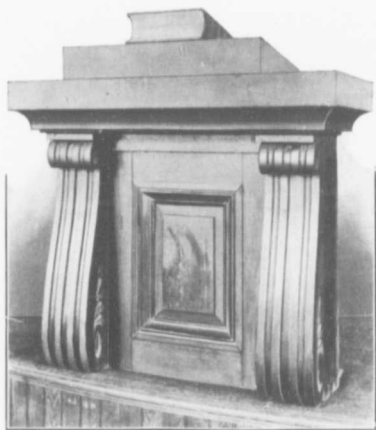
Hugh Young was an ideal Superintendent. From the first there was a weekly prayer meeting. Sometimes it was rather small, but when once it was suggested to Mr. Young that he should drop it, he very emphatically said "No," "the door shall never be closed on Wednesday night as long as I live."

The first Librarian was Samuel Creech, followed by A. B. Smith, a man most faithful in the performance of his duties and at considerable self sacrifice, and it was always felt that Pearl Street Mission School lost a sincere friend when he removed to Toronto.



Fresh in the memories of those who remain to this day is the Rev. John McColl, then pastor of Central Church, who, although in delicate health, spent alternate Sabbaths with his own class in Central Church and the Pearl Street Mission. Nearly two years after the formation of the school it sustained a severe blow in the removal of Mr. McColl by death.

About this time arrangements were made whereby a student from Knox College preached every Sabbath evening, and many of these are now influential men in the Presbyterian Church—Mr. Hugh McKay Mr. Farquharson, Mr. Macdonald,



OLD PULPIT

the present editor of the Globe. It was at this time that Central Church received Dr. Lyle as their pastor, who has never ceased to take an active and fatherly interest in the welfare of Erskine Church. Mr. Reed, a student of Knox College, was placed in charge of the mission for six months, and the little mission made rapid strides under his ministry. He was followed by Mr. Thomas Scouler. At this period the little band of workers experienced great grief in the death of Hugh Young, who, was called to his reward. When his body lay still in death in front of the little old pulpit where he had so often presided, the thoughts that filled the minds of those present are best expressed in the words spoken of another great man : " In his life he was as tender as a woman and manly as a man."



JOHN F. HALL

To add to our grief, at this time we were very much afraid we would lose our pastor, Dr. Lyle, who was very ill, but he had not completed the work which a Higher Hand had mapped out for him, and it is well known how faithfully that work has been done.

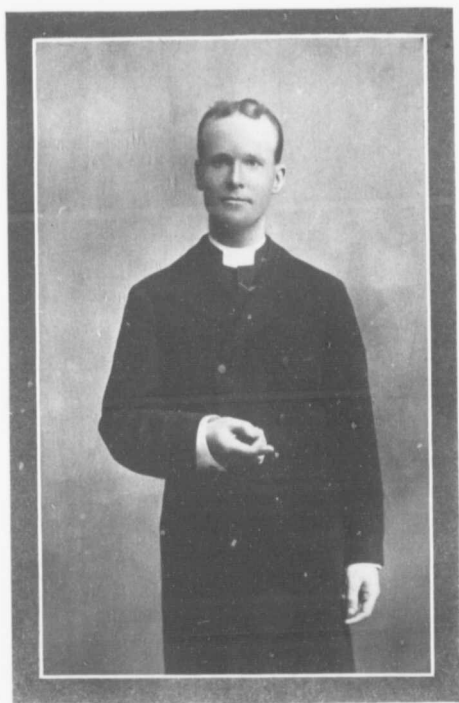
Up to this period the Mission was dependent on the parent church for support. It was considered that the time was ripe for the formation of a new congregation, and a unanimous call was extended to Rev. Thomas Scouler, who has just completed his course in Knox College. The further history of the young Church is easily traced through the records in the possession of the officers.

There are a few names, however, of those early pioneers that the congregation must ever remember in the kindest manner—George Rutherford, George Black and Jonathan Ames, all members of Central Church session. The last mentioned gave great financial help to the young church. Other names that should fill a pleasant chamber in the memories of Erskine Church congregation are William Stewart, William Monk, James Alexander, Alexander McLaughlin and John Jamieson. If they have not accomplished any more through life than what they did for the young Church in the West End, they have left "footprints on the sands of time."

It is pleasant to note also that a Sunday morning service was conducted by the Episcopal Church, under Rev. William Lumsden, in the old mission, which was the beginning of St. George's Church.

#### THE FIRST SESSION

REV. THOMAS SCOULER, Moderator  
ALEXANDER THOMPSON  
ROBERT ALLEN  
GEORGE MURISON  
SAMUEL CRAWFORD  
JOHN McBEAN



REV. J. BURNSIDE RUSSELL



ADAM TURNBULL

## THE CHURCH

THE name "Erskine" was given to the Church as a tribute to the memory of Hugh Young, that being the name of the church of his younger days in Scotland.

A petition, as has been mentioned, was presented to Hamilton Presbytery on July 20th, 1880, asking that they be allowed to organize a congregation, and in August of same year it was granted.

A call was immediately given to the Rev. Thomas Scouler, who previously had charge for eight months as a student from Knox College, and his ordination and induction took place on the 7th December, 1880. Mr. Scouler's pastorate was marked by solid as well as rapid growth. In 1884 it was deemed necessary to build a new church and separate school room. The corner stone of the present church was laid on the 1st July, 1884, by Mrs. Jonathan Ames, and the church was opened and dedicated on December 21st, 1884.

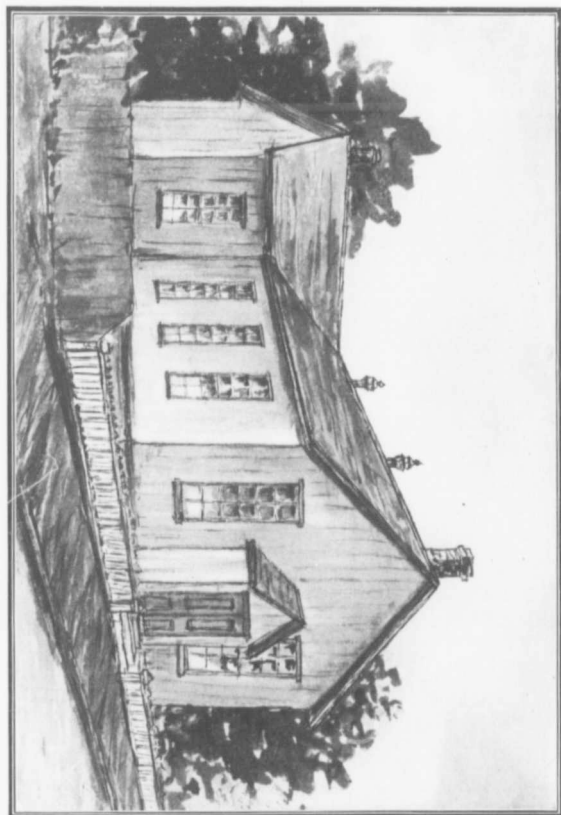
On the removal of Rev. Thomas Scouler to New Westminster, British Columbia, the Rev. W. J. Dey, M.A., was inducted as minister, 28th November, 1887, which ministry continued until December, 1889, when he accepted a call to Simcoe, Ontario. During this period such organizations as the Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor, the Choir and the Mission Band came into existence. The Auxiliary of the W. F. M. S. and the Ladies' Aid Society, which existed under other names, were constituted in their present forms.

Then followed a vacancy of thirteen months, when, at the close of which period, Rev. J. G. Shearer, B.A., was called from Knox Church, Caledonia, and inducted on the 5th February, 1891. Mr. Shearer's ministry extended over a period of exactly nine years. He then accepted the Field Secretaryship of the Lord's Day Alliance of Canada, and bade the congregation farewell on February 5th, 1900. During these nine years the membership rose from 188 in 1891 to 592 in 1900, and the contributions to all purposes from \$2,421 in 1891, to \$5,987 in 1900. The forces of the church were thoroughly organized with that permanency which refuses to be moved, though many sudden changes may come.

In 1896 the commodious new Sunday School building was erected with its thirty class rooms and seating capacity of 1,000, and the splendid pipe organ built in the church.

The pulpit was vacant only a few months when a call was extended to Rev. Robert Martin, in June, 1900. The same success attended the pastorate of Mr. Martin, until in 1904 the communion roll stood at 673. In 1903 the galleries were lowered and the interior of the church remodelled and decorated at a cost of \$3,500. In February, 1905, Mr. Martin was called to Knox Church, Stratford. Our present pastor, Rev. S. B. Russell, who was inducted May 12th, 1905, has taken up the work with great enthusiasm, and has already endeared himself to the hearts of the people.





MISSION CHURCH

## THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

THE story of the first Sunday School has been already carefully written. In looking over an old alphabetical memorandum of the scholars in the early days, one is very forcibly reminded of the changes which Father Time makes in a period of thirty years. A great many are now dead, while others are scattered far and wide over the land, many of them to exercise an influence for good that was begotten in the old Pearl Street School.

Beginning this sketch with the year 1880, after the formation of Erskine as a church, steady progress was made. Then comes a transfer to the school on Morden street and also speedy increase. The members, however, who planned the new church and school room, did not anticipate such a large increase of the population in the West End, and erected a school to accommodate only 300 children. In 1896 the corner stone of the present up-to-date Sunday School building, with its commodious class-rooms, was well and truly laid by Mrs. Shearer.

After the death of Hugh Young, John Wallace was appointed Superintendent. Among other names are those of J. Hamilton Racey and W. M. Souter, both of whom became missionaries to China, and in more recent years James Newlands, James Gill, B.A., James Souter and William Brown, all of whom have done faithful service in the office of Superintendent. In the list of secretaries and librarians we do not forget the good work of Samuel Creech, A. B. Smith, Hugh Young, Jr., Wallace Young, A. M. Souter, R. P. Anderson, John Gordon and Wm. Jackman.

For several years prior to 1896 a flourishing Boys' Brigade existed under the captaincy of T. D. Lawrason. When the new school was erected in 1896, the building not being suitable, the organization had to be disbanded. The crest and motto still stands on the school wall—an anchor with the words, "Sure and Steadfast."

The missionary spirit has been carefully nurtured. The collections, according to the original constitution, were all to be given to the schemes of the Church. A departure from this method has taken place in later years, but even after the lesson papers have all been paid for there remains a large sum for mission purposes. In 1903, when the children were asked to contribute money to support a child in India, they contributed enough to support four children. For many years we have given \$50 annually for the support of a child in the Point Aux Trembles School, Quebec.

In temperance work we have over 400 members of the Temperance Army, and are the pioneer corps of the city. One Sunday each quarter is devoted to this special work.

In 1904, Erskine sought to solve the problem of securing and training teachers by starting a teachers' training class, adopting the course given by the General Assembly of our own Church. While we look carefully after the older children, the little ones are not forgotten. We are reminded of them each Sunday by the large Cradle Roll that hangs on the wall in the Primary Department.

The roll at present is 553 scholars, 51 teachers and officers, and an orchestra of twelve members, of which the school is justly proud.

The officers are : D. A. Souter, Gordon Ion, James Leckie, Superintendents ; E. H. Montgomery and Albert Gladstone, Secretaries ; James Brown and Alex. Gordon, Librarians ; and Agnes Turnbull, Treasurer.





SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFICERS AND TEACHERS



HUGH NICHOLL.

## BOARD OF MISSIONS

IN early days the missionary money was collected by regularly appointed visitors who called on members of the congregation, delivered the "Record" and received contributions.

On January 28th, 1895, the Missionary Association became the organization now known as the Board of Missions, and was composed first of the elders and their wives. Later it consisted of appointed members of all organizations in the church contributing to missions.

The work of the Board is two-fold. First, that of creating prayerful and practical interest in the schemes of the church; and second, receiving and forwarding the offerings of the congregation towards these objects.

A glance over the minutes of the ten years' work reveals faithful effort in bringing good speakers with strong personalities to present the cause of missions.

Besides a loyal support of every scheme of the church, many outside organizations, such as the Lord's Day Alliance, Welland Canal Mission to Sailors, British and Foreign Bible Society, and the Mission to Jews have received the hearty support of our church.

Previous to the formation of the Board, the givings to missions had grown from \$260 in 1882 to \$669 in 1893. In 1894 the pink envelope system was adopted with the result that the givings increased to \$1,035. The increase since has been gradual, and in 1903 reached the sum of \$1,535 for all missionary objects.

In 1899 the plan of supporting our own missionary in the Northwest was discussed. Four years later, 1903, this was realized and the congregation pledged itself to the support of Rev. Andrew Henderson, of Welwyn, Assa. Through the generosity of a member of the congregation Erskine was honored by the support of another missionary, Mr. Asa Terry, Valley View, Assa. The reports from these men have been a real blessing to the congregation and intensified our interest in the great Home Mission work.

Ours is a note of praise for the past, and we look forward with greater hope and larger ambitions for the future. The officers are Hugh Nicholl, President; John Pringle, Treasurer; and Robert Duff, Secretary.

## THE CHOIR

**D**URING the early days, before Erskine became a church, at the prayer meeting Mr. Betcome used to "raise the time". Frequently he began too high, then he would stop, sound his tuning fork, and begin again.

For several years John T. Hall led the singing in the old church. On his resignation, in 1882, James Newlands was appointed as "leader of sacred music." In 1884 James Newlands resigned and James Smith appointed as his successor. It was not until 1888 that permission was given to Mr. Smith to form a choir, and the request forwarded to the managers to have a "suitable platform erected for the same." After Mr. Smith resigned, for a time Miss Hendry very ably directed the choir.



THE ORGAN

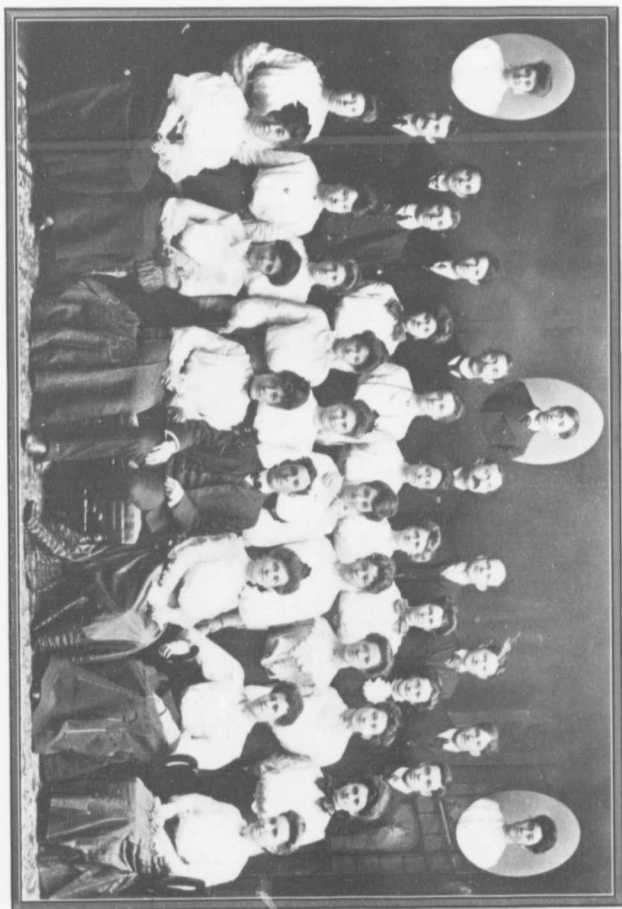
Miss Edgar took charge in 1889. Little did those who knew her in the days of the old church think that the little girl they then knew would become one of Hamilton's sweetest singers. After Miss Edgar's resignation George Allan had charge for a time, to be followed by Bruce A. Carey.

To-day the choir is under the charge of Sydney English, Mus. Bac., and is one of the finest organizations of the church.

The first organ was a very primitive affair, without stops of any kind. Miss Edgar was the first organist, followed by Miss Murison. Then later Miss Ada Brown (now Mrs. Booth, of Johnstown, Pa.) and Miss McBean. The present organ is a splendid instrument, built in 1894.

It may be of interest to many to know that in 1883 it was necessary to obtain the sanction of the session for the use of a piano at the anniversary services of the church.

The present officers are Sydney English, Leader and Organist; Ben Broughton, President; and Alex. Gordon, Secretary.



THE CHOIR

## LADIES' AID SOCIETY—1882-1905

THE supreme aim toward which this work tends is to unite in the friendliest relation the interests of the Home and the Church.

The necessity for an organization of this nature was early felt by the Session of Erskine Church, and in June, 1882, the Rev. T. Scouler selected from his congregation the following women to form a visiting committee to assist the elders, viz.: Mrs. Scouler, Mrs. Ames, Mrs. Hugh Young, Mrs. D. Souther, Sr., Mrs. Newlands, Mrs. Makins, Sr., Mrs. Capt. Barr, Mrs. J. Morgan, Mrs. Clunas and Mrs. A. Turnbull.

Their work at first was social and evangelistic, becoming mutually acquainted with other members and helping to gather in non-church goers; but later they collected over \$500 for the carpet and pulpit chairs of new church. Owing to the rapid growth of the congregation this small visiting committee had to be enlarged, and on February 29th, 1888, thirty ladies met and adopted the present Constitution and Name. First President, Mrs. (Rev.) Dey; Secretary, Mrs. Renwick; Treasurer, Miss Helen Hendry.

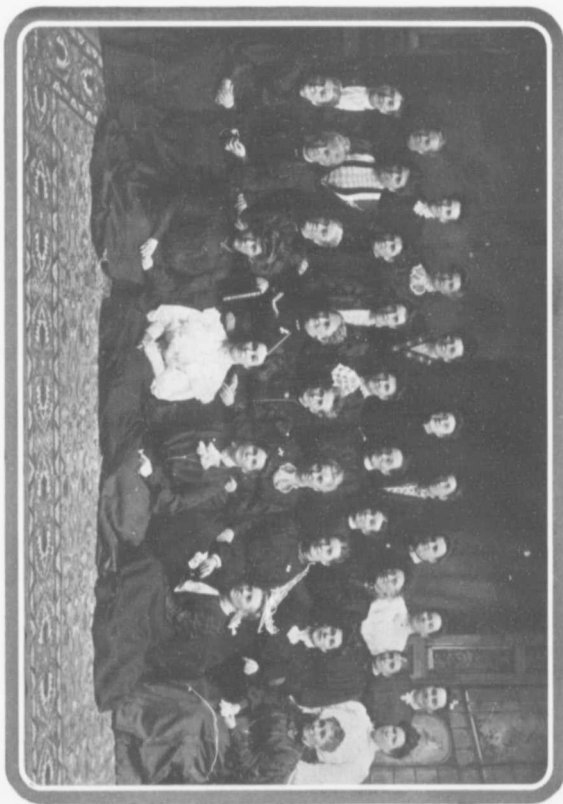
This Society has been aggressive in carrying out in truth what its name signifies, willing helpers in every department of church work. In 1891 a sewing class was formed, members giving instruction and help in making garments for those who needed them, which proved a great boon to many poor families. In 1892 the system of enrolling as honorary members ladies who, though unable to attend the meetings, were willing to become regular contributors, has added very materially to the funds, membership, and general interest in the Society's work. In 1904 the Society was instrumental in securing the introduction of the "Individual Cup" at Communion Service.

The efficiency and faithfulness of this organization has won for its workers the term of "assistant pastors", and Ladies' Aid officers are noted for their long terms of service—few changes except through removal from city, Mrs. McBean serving as President 10 consecutive years; Mrs. Baines as Treasurer 9 years, succeeding Mrs. W. Hyndman who had served 5 years; and the present Secretary has served 14 years; while Mrs. H. McKellar, Mrs. Pyle, Mrs. T. H. Kellar, Mrs. Wm. Brown, Mrs. Symmers and Mrs. Crooks have been actively connected with the work since 1888. The Society would also include in this brief sketch the long and efficient service, as organist, of Mrs. J. Phillips; and Mrs. Rodger and Mrs. A. Massie as faithful district visitors for years; and, "In Memoriam," Mrs. Glass, an active member, and Mrs. Jas. Brown, Mrs. Mary Lawson and Mrs. Lennox-Anderson, honorary members, who have answered the "Last Roll Call" and entered into their well-earned rest.

The present district visiting staff numbers 35; two hundred and eighty homes are visited every month, and upward of four thousand dollars have been raised for general and special purposes, including a Semi-Jubilee donation of \$350 toward mortgage reduction.

OFFICERS FOR SEMI-JUBILEE YEAR

MRS. MONTGOMERY, President.    MRS. BAINES, Building fund Treasurer.  
MRS. W. PITT, General Fund Treasurer.  
MRS. A. TURNBULL, Secretary.



ALLENOR DIV. STUDY



MRS. JOHN PRINGLE

#### AUXILIARY WOMEN'S FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY

IN January, 1886, on the suggestion of Mrs. Smellie, a meeting of ladies was called at Mr. Scouler's house to consider the advisability of forming a Mission Band in connection with Erskine Church. A very enthusiastic meeting was held, and the Band organized

under the name "Co-Workers". Mrs. Smellie was elected President; Mrs. Scouler, Vice-President; Miss A. Young, Secretary; and Miss Hall, Treasurer. Seventeen members joined at this first meeting, of whom four—Mrs. Wm. Brown, Miss Souter, Miss McBean and Mrs. R. E. Woodruff—are still members.

In 1889, to give a wider scope to the work and to obtain the benefit that comes from co-operation and union with the larger Society, the Mission Band was changed into an Auxiliary of the Women's Foreign Missionary Society, with Mrs. W. J. Dey, as President.

It is impossible to estimate the influence this society has had upon the life of the Church. Our ladies have realized they have a special work to do for their less favored sisters in heathen countries, and have all through these nineteen years done nobly their share of the work. It can only of course be estimated, but over \$2,000 has been contributed in money alone to the General Treasurer of the Women's Foreign Missionary Society. Besides this, boxes of clothing have been sent to the Northwest and India, and for several years the ladies have undertaken to clothe an Indian boy and girl. When special appeals are made they are always ready, and in the year of India's Famine, having been asked for help, over seventy dollars was taken up in one collection for this special work.

The missionary spirit has grown, as is evidenced by the fact that when in October, 1892, the first thank-offering meeting was held in Mrs. Shearer's house, 17 members were present and contributed seventeen dollars, whereas on the thank-offering occasion held last year over seventy dollars was given.

Our auxiliary has the honor of having four life members Mrs. Wm. Clunas, Mrs. J. G. Shearer, Mrs. J. R. Moodie and Mrs. John Smellie.

On the removal of Mrs. Dey to Simcoe, she was succeeded by Miss McBean as President in 1890, Mrs. J. G. Shearer in 1892, and Mrs. Wm. Clunas in 1899.

At the meetings papers are read giving information on the different mission fields and other selections bearing on the work. The membership now stands at thirty. The present officers are Mrs. John Pringle, President; Miss Souter, Secretary; and Mrs. Dobbin, Treasurer.



MARGARET P. MONTGOMERY

missionary spirit in the children and to give them intelligent ideas of the people, customs, and religions of heathen lands, and the missionary work that has been done there.

The band began with about twenty members, and the average attendance was about twelve. The membership has gradually increased until at present it is fifty-two, with an average attendance last year of thirty-nine. Erskine Mission Band now has the honor of having one of the largest memberships and average attendances in this Presbytery.

In 1891 the Band, which up to this time had been independent, was re-organized by Mrs. Grant in connection with the Women's Foreign Missionary Society. It is interesting, in looking over the names of those who were members when children, to note that a very large percentage of them are now among the most active workers in the Christian Endeavor Society or the Sunday School. The various Presidents who have had charge, besides Mrs. Dey, are Mrs. Turnbull, Mrs. Smellie, Mrs. D. A. Souter and Miss Nellie Allen. The present faithful and capable President is Miss Margaret Montgomery. The Secretary is Ella Stobie, and the Treasurer, Zetta Carruthers.

#### EARNEST HELPERS MISSION BAND

THE Mission Band of Erskine Church, known by the name of "Earnest Helpers," was organized in 1888 by Mrs. Dey, who was its first President. Its object is to create a





MARY MCBEAN

#### YOUNG WOMEN'S HOME MISSION SOCIETY

THROUGH the active instrumentality of Mrs. Wm. Clunas this organization of young women was formed, with the object of helping the mission cause in our home land, especially in the Northwest and Yukon districts.

The first meeting was in January, 1904, when 17 members met to plan the carrying on of the work. The Society's special work this year has been helping supply Teulon Hospital with necessary comforts in the form of slippers, socks, bandages and clothing.

The present officers are Miss McBean, President; Miss L. Netta Turnbull, Secretary; and Miss Tena Mitchell, Treasurer.

#### INTERMEDIATE ENDEAVOR

THE Intermediate Endeavor Society was organized in March, 1896, the natural growth out of the Junior Endeavor. Alexander Mitchell was its first President. Mrs. Bertram (nee Chapman) succeeded him and was one of its most faithful officers.

Under her charge the work had steadily increased. George H. Dawson has been President for a number of years, and the Intermediates have proved a living force among the young people of Erskine. Many of the Intermediates are now valuable workers in the Senior Society and Sunday School, the training they received under its care being very helpful in the wider spheres of the Church.



GEORGE H. DAWSON



BOARD OF MANAGEMENT



MARGARET WHYTE

## YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETY OF CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR

IN the Session records of October 3rd, 1888, there appeared these words:

"The Session heartily endorses the formation of a Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor." At a meeting of young people on October 1st, 1888, it

was agreed that all should meet on the following Monday evening for organization and conduct the prayer meeting along the lines of Christian Endeavor. That night sixteen members signed the pledge. Officers were elected and committees appointed, but owing to the loss of the early records it had been impossible to ascertain the names of the sixteen charter members and all the officers elected. James E. Souter was President.

Early in the following year the Society organized a Sunday School in the extreme west end of the city, known as the brick fields. But as a suitable room could not be found in the district, a small vacant store was rented on King street, near Garth street. A Sunday school was conducted by members of the society every Sunday morning at 9.30. Soon it became necessary to look for larger premises. A building, now a dwelling, was erected by Mr. Edward New, on corner King and New streets, for the use of the school. In addition to the school a meeting was held on Sunday evening, and also for a time a week-night prayer meeting. These meetings were carried on by members of the society or substitutes. This work continued until the erection of the present school building in 1896, when it was thought advisable to concentrate all our efforts in one building.

The history of this mission cannot be closed without special mention of the faithful visitation work of Miss Hendry. Much of the success was due to her unceasing efforts. She was indeed a ministering angel to the people of the district.

In 1895, as will be mentioned in another report, the Junior Society was formed, and from this branch, in 1896, the Intermediate Society sprang up.

The Endeavorers also assisted at various times in holding gospel meetings in the House of Refuge, the Bethel Mission and other places.

To write a history of the Society, to mention even the names of the many earnest workers who have served the society in the different offices, would require twice the space allotted to us. It is perhaps sufficient to state that no organization has been so successful in bringing forward young men and women, who little dreamed of the gifts they possessed, until this society gave them the opportunity and confidence to use them.

Missionary work has been taught and practised by the society, and the total amount contributed to missions, if it could be made up, would be a considerable sum.

The handsome piano, which is being used in the school room, was presented by the Endeavor Society to the church in 1903.



ALEXANDER GORDON



Mrs. Geo. Collier. Mrs. J. Chapman. Mrs. Wm. Clunas.  
Mrs. Jas. Symmers. Mrs. Ed. Makins. Mrs. John McBean.

LADIES ON THE FIRST COMMUNION ROLL, NOW MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION



ELIZABETH MARTIN

## JUNIOR ENDEAVOR

PREVIOUS to 1895 the Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor had felt the need of a junior branch, but the way did not seem clear to organize until, at the close of special services, it was found that about fifty of the children in the Sunday School had signed cards signifying their desire to become Christians. These cards were given to some of the Christian Endeavor workers by the pastor, Rev. J. G. Shearer. The children were visited and invited to meet the following Sunday after Sunday School, and thus in February, 1895, was organized the Junior Endeavor Society of Erskine Church, with Miss Mary Stevenson and Miss Lizzie Martin as Superintendents.

So great was the interest taken that the first twenty-nine members grew to be one hundred and twenty-nine, and the difficulty in handling the large committees resulted in the formation of the Intermediate Society in March, 1896.

On the removal of Miss Stevenson, now Mrs. Wm. Baxter, to the neighboring Republic, the work was taken up by Miss Isa Mitchell. Her noble character has left a lasting impression on all the children with whom she came in contact. Miss Mitchell continued until by illness she was prevented from taking any active part.

Miss Lizzie Martin followed as Superintendent until asked by the Senior Society to become their President, and she handed over the work of the Juniors to Miss Lizzie Gordon.

While nothing specially eventful happened during these later years, the patient training of the children in the way of building Christian character has steadily gone on. The Juniors are always eager to work, and do so with enthusiasm and ability. One of the strong points in Junior training has been the systematic missionary work, and so by giving one cent each Sunday they have contributed since 1897 the sum of \$330 to Missions.

In September, 1904, Miss Gordon left the city to teach school in Stoney Creek, and thus the Society was deprived of one of its ablest Superintendents. But if any one will look in on Sunday morning at 10 o'clock a very delightful gathering of boys and girls will be found assembled under the care of Miss Lizzie Martin. Juniors take part in services in the House of Refuge, make scrap books for the hospitals and comfort bags for the sailors. The carrying of flowers and reading matter to the sick and other similar works have been carried on year after year. The present officers are Miss Lizzie Martin, Superintendent; G. M. Dobbin, President; and Alex. McFarland, Secretary.



ORCHESTRA



J. MCDERMID

## YOUNG MEN'S UNION

THE Erskine Young Men's Union was organized in February, 1903. The meetings were conducted along same lines as other similar Unions, characterized by debates, short speeches, lectures and talks by prominent speakers. Debaters developed rapidly, and Erskine holds her own against all. Considerable talent has also been developed along entertainment lines, and the annual concert of the Union is looked forward to with pleasure.

In the Mock Parliament of the City Unions two of the young men were Honorable members of the Cabinet. The officers are J. McDermid, President; G. A. McCulloch, Secretary; and Mr. Wm. Derrick, Treasurer.



OLD BOYS' CLASS



## Programme

SUNDAY JUNE 25 <sup>TH</sup>	<i>11 a. m. &amp; 7 p. m.—Public Worship. Professor Ballantyne, Knox College. 3 p. m.—Sabbath School. Addresses by past Superintendents.</i>
MONDAY JUNE 26 <sup>TH</sup>	<i>Re-Union, 7.30 to 8.30 p. m.—Social hour in Schoolroom, 8.30 p. m.—Addresses by former pastors.</i>
TUESDAY JUNE 27 <sup>TH</sup>	<i>Missionary Night, 8 p. m.—Addresses by Rev. John Griffith, of Hunan, China, and Rev. W. A. J. Martiu, Bradford.</i>
WEDNESDAY JUNE 28 <sup>TH</sup>	<i>8 p. m.—Union Thanksgiving Service. Pastors and Congregations of Hannah St. Methodist, Zion Methodist, Im- manuel Congregational, St. George's Anglican, Locke St. Presbyterian churches are cancelling their regular prayer meetings to unite with us.</i>
THURSDAY JUNE 29 <sup>TH</sup>	<i>Young People's Night—Starlight Excursion.</i>
SATURDAY JULY 1 <sup>ST</sup>	<i>Congregational and Sabbath School Picnic to Oaklands Park.</i>
SUNDAY JULY 2 <sup>ND</sup>	<i>11 a. m. and 7 p. m.—Public Worship. Rev. A. L. Geggie, Toronto, 3 p. m.—Sabbath School. Rev. J. G. Shearer, B. A., Sec'y. of Lord's Day Alliance.</i>

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