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# St. Andrew's Church

CAMPBELLFORD, ONT.

1858-1908

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**St. Andrew's Church**  
Campbellford • Ontario • Canada

An Historic Sketch compiled by  
**Rev. A. C. Reeves, B.A.**

Descriptive of the History of the  
Church for the years 1858 to 1908

Fifty years of arduous and  
faithful work by all concerned

26834  
1922





ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH



CAMPBELLFORD ABOUT THE YEAR 1865  
THE CHURCH ON THE RIGHT OF THE PICTURE IS THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH

### AN HISTORIC SKETCH

PRESBYTERIANISM in Campbellford goes back to the year 1836. On the 17th of September in that year a meeting of the pioneers of the Township of Seymour was held for the purpose of obtaining religious services in connection with the Church of Scotland. A committee was appointed to further the project.

A settled minister was not available, however, for some time; but at length, on January 29th, 1840, the Rev. Robert Neill—better known to a later generation as Dr. Neill—was ordained in Seymour by the old Kirk Presbytery of Kingston.

It is an interesting fact that at the same time another venerable father of the Church, in the person of the late William Reid, D.D., for many years the respected agent of the Church, was ordained at Colborne, the Presbytery going directly on the following day from the ordination of Mr. Neill to that of Mr. Reid.

In addition to his work in Seymour East, Dr. Neill conducted services in the home of Walter Govan, Seymour West; in the school-house at Campbellford, and later in the Town Hall, Campbellford.

For nearly forty-six years this devoted man labored faithfully and left a deep impress upon the life of the entire community, so that his name and work are held in honored remembrance.

The congregation in Burnbrae is the perpetual monument of the work he did, and in his original parish there are now the flourishing congregations of Burnbrae, Rylestone, Stirling, and Campbellford. In November of 1885 he retired from active service, and five years later passed into rest, in Campbellford.

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**St. Andrew's Church, Campbellford**

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St. Andrew's Church, Campbellford, was organized under Free Church auspices, and prior to 1857, when a Sabbath School was formed, services had been carried on by a number of Free Church missionaries.

On June 1st, 1858, the Rev. Thomas Alexander, who was formerly minister at Cobourg, and who had, along with a great many other ministers in 1844, severed his connection with the Church of Scotland, was inducted as the first minister of the congregation, which was then connected with Percy.

The service took place at Percy under the Presbytery of Cobourg, and the induction sermon was preached by the Rev. Peter Duncan, of Colborne, who retired from the active duties of the ministry on the occasion of his jubilee—in December of last year.

Campbellford at that time was known as "The Bridge," and even yet some of the older people speak of it under this name. In a recent letter from Mr. Duncan, he states that he remembers very well the induction of Mr. Alexander, and also attending later a soiree at Seymour Bridge, held in a nice new house owned by a Mr. Ogilvie.

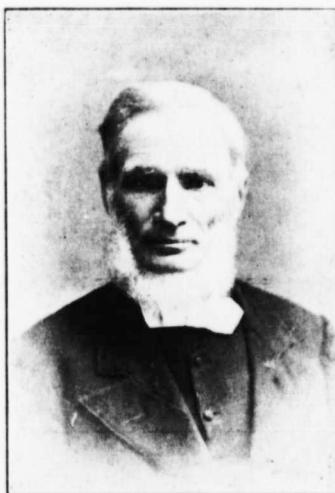
The first Presbyterian Church in Campbellford was erected in 1861, on the site of the present church. Previous to this services were held in the school-house. Although for several years—before and after the settlement of Mr. Alexander—services were conducted by the old Kirk section of the Burnbrae congregation, no church building was ever erected by them. At one time timber was drawn and laid on the ground for a church, at a little beyond where the I.X.L. cheese factory now stands. Also as many as two lots were obtained for a building in Campbellford, but although the matter was brought up at successive annual meetings, nothing decisive was ever done. So that the first Presbyterian Church building in Campbellford was that built by the Free Church. It was dedicated by the late Rev. Alex. Topp, D.D., of Knox Church, Toronto, in May, 1861.



REV. ROBERT NEIL, D.D.



REV. THOMAS ALEXANDER  
1858 TO 1862



REV. DAVID BEATTIE  
1869 TO 1870



REV. DONALD SUTHERLAND, M.A.  
1870 TO 1884



REV. JOHN HAY, B.D.  
1860 TO 1885



REV. MARCUS SCOTT, B.A.  
1880 TO 1885



SCHOOL-HOUSE IN CAMPBELLFORD  
WHERE THE FIRST RELIGIOUS SERVICES WERE HELD

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St. Andrew's Church, Campbellford

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It is worthy of notice that the first church building is in existence yet, and is now situated on Front Street. It is used as a warehouse for carriages and farm implements.

In 1865 Mr. Alexander resigned Campbellford, retaining charge of Percy, or Warkworth. Later he resigned Warkworth. Afterwards Mr. Alexander was minister of Mount Pleasant and Burford, and was at the time of his death a few years ago, an honored member of the Presbytery of Paris.

In the early days—about 1861—the congregation was known as Seymour. A few years later the name Campbellford came into use.

Among the names mentioned in the records of the Presbytery of Cobourg in connection with Mr. Alexander's ministry, are those of Thomas Rutherford, elder; John Bell and John Dickson, deacons. Also Daniel Kennedy and William Parker.

In the records of the Presbytery for 5th May, 1863, the following item appears:

"Mr. Alexander brought before the Presbytery the fact that, as the congregation of Seymour had a church to build, he for the last two years had taken only fifty pounds instead of sixty of stipend. As the church was nearly paid for, he thought it right that it should be raised again to sixty pounds."

In Mr. Alexander's time there seems also to have been some trouble over the holding of funerals on Sundays.

After Mr. Alexander's resignation, the congregation called the Rev. Anthony Simpson. This call was not accepted, although Mr. Simpson supplied the pulpit for over a year. Next a call was addressed to Mr. Walter M. Roger, but was declined. A long vacancy ensued, during which the congregation was supplied by men appointed by the Home Mission Committee of the Presbytery. Finally, in 1869, a call was extended to the Rev. David Beattie. Mr. Beattie accepted the call and was inducted on February 9th, 1869.

In 1872 Mr. Alexander resigned the charge of Warkworth, and the Presbytery, for reasons of economy proposed re-uniting

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St. Andrew's Church, Campbellford

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Warkworth and Campbellford. This was agreed to. Mr. Beattie's health at this time was not very robust, and he felt that he would not be able to stand the strain of a double charge, and so he, in 1872, resigned Campbellford. Afterwards Mr. Beattie had charge of Rylestone, and also preached in the neighborhood of Madoc. After some years he retired from active service to his home near Campbellford, and passed away in 1892.

The third minister was Rev. Donald Sutherland, who was ordained and inducted at Warkworth November 11th, 1873. Mr. Sutherland was promised a stipend of \$750 and a manse. Of the \$750, the sum of \$400 was to come from Percy, and \$350 from Campbellford. From 1873 to 1884 Mr. Sutherland ministered to the united congregations of Warkworth and Campbellford. Mr. Sutherland resided in Percy, as did Mr. Alexander. The work having grown beyond the ability of one man, the charges were separated on October 14th, 1884. Mr. Sutherland remained in Warkworth and continued to minister there until 1898 when, at the close of a service of a quarter of a century, he resigned to take charge of the congregation of Strathciair, Manitoba.

Mr. Sutherland retired from the active ministry shortly before his death, which took place in the spring of 1907.

In 1885, Campbellford, now a separate charge, entered upon a new era. About this time there was a considerable increase in the population of the town, and the congregation was fortunate in securing, as its fourth pastor, the Rev. John Hay, who was ordained and inducted on June 9th, 1885. During the four years of his ministry the congregation made rapid progress, and it was to the great regret, not only of his own people, but of the whole community, that he resigned to take charge of Cobourg. He is at present the minister of Renfrew.

Rev. Marcus Scott, now of the Central Church, Detroit, was inducted October 24th, 1889, and during his term of office the congregation continued to increase in strength and in-

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St. Andrew's Church, Campbellford

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fluence, and it was again with sorrow that the people were called upon to give up their minister. Mr. Scott's resignation took effect in May, 1895.

On the 1st of October, in the same year, the Rev. Robert Laird, now Agent for the Endowment Fund of Queen's University, was called to Campbellford, and ordained and inducted into his first charge. He labored with zeal and energy for four years, when he was called to the pastorate of First Church, Brockville.

The present minister, Rev. A. C. Reeves, was inducted January 18th, 1900, and has thus been in charge for nearly eight and a half years.

The first church building was a frame structure, and was erected, as already stated, in 1861. This building becoming too small, the corner stone of a new edifice was laid in 1882 by the venerable Dr. Neill. The formal opening took place on January 28th, 1883, the services on that day being conducted by Rev. Principal Grant, of Kingston.

In 1890 it was found necessary to enlarge the building, which was done at a cost of \$6,000. It is the edifice as thus enlarged that is shown in the accompanying engraving.

There has, since that date, been a still further enlargement, an alcove for the organ and choir having been added in 1902.

St. Andrew's congregation owes a great deal to the generosity of one of its members—the late Mrs. Gibb—who, before her decease in 1894, made a bequest by which the entire indebtedness of the congregation was cleared away, and a handsome sum set aside for the erection of a manse. The beautiful and commodious manse, set in its attractive environment, is a constant reminder to minister and people of one who was a true and liberal friend of the work of the Church.

It is interesting to note that the building of a manse was projected as far back as the year 1869. It was however, the year 1898 before the project was realized.

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**S t. Andrew's Church, Campbellford**

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The congregation has, in all the course of its history, been a strong factor in the religious and moral life of Campbellford, and it is the sincere hope of all that it may always continue to be an uplifting force in the life of the entire community.

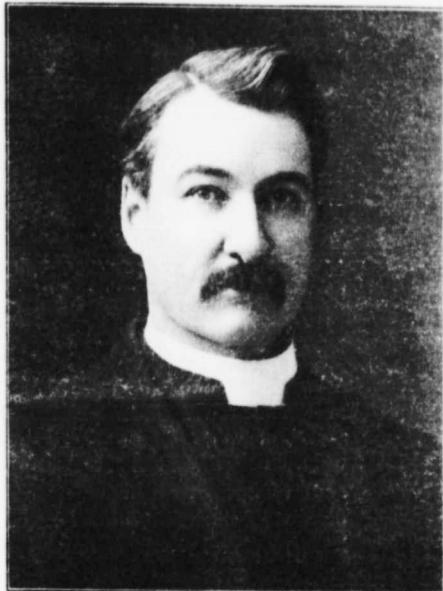
"Our fathers to their graves have gone—  
Their strife is past, their triumphs won ;  
    But sterner trials wait the race  
    Which rises in their honored place—  
A moral warfare with the crime  
And folly of an evil time.  
    So let it be. In God's own might  
    We gird us for the coming fight ;  
And, strong in Him whose cause is ours,  
In conflict with unholy powers  
    We grasp the weapons He has given—  
    The light, the truth, and love of heaven."





REV. ROBERT LAIRD, M.A.

1866-1880



REV. A. C. REEVES, B.A.

1880-1890 PRESENT



PRESBYTERIAN MANSE



FRONT ROW: W. M. COOK, G. S. MITCHELL, REV. A. C. WEELES, C. E. WATKINS, W. J. ANDREWSON  
BACK ROW: R. H. SCOTT, ALEX. WADDELL, JOHN CLARK, DAVIDS HORNADY

SESSION OF ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH JUNE, 1908

## St. Andrew's Church, Campbellford

## APPENDIX

**TO BE NOTED:**

The lists are somewhat incomplete, owing to the difficulty of obtaining information. In several instances records have been lost or are not to be found.

It will therefore, be understood that these lists are open to correction. They are the best, however, that could be obtained from the data at hand.

**NAMES OF ELDERS SINCE FOUNDING OF  
CONGREGATION:**

THOMAS RUTHERFORD, SR.	JAMES FULLFORD	JOHN GRAHAM
MR. WATSON	ALEXANDER DONALD	J. P. HUME
ALEX. WADDELL	JOHN CLARK	ROBERT SCOTT
GEORGE JOHNSTON	W. R. MANNING	W. J. ARMSTRONG
JOHN WOOD	C. L. OWENS	JAMES BORKLAND
WM. LOGAN	JAMES DONALD	WM. COOK
GRANVILLE ROLLO	GEORGE MITCHELL	

## NAMES OF PRECENTORS:

JOHN MCLEOD ROBERT JOHNSTON WM. BEATTIE  
WM. LOGAN

These, with perhaps some others whose names have not been given to me, took their turn, as occasion demanded, in leading the service of praise.

In January, 1877, James Dickson was asked to lead the Psalmody, and did so for six years, when he was succeeded by James Buchanan.

In February, 1884, the organ was first used in the church services. At this time also, a choir was organized, and James Dickson was appointed the leader, which position he has held up to the present, with the exception of one year, during which James Donald was leader.

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**St. Andrew's Church, Campbellford**

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**ORGANISTS:**

MISS CURTS	MISS MAGGIE DINWOODIE (Mrs. Geo. Waters)
MISS ROSE MITCHELL (Mrs. A. E. Lytle)	MRS. W. J. ARMSTRONG
MISS ALICE DONALD (Mrs. J. H. Caskey)	MRS. D. A. WHITE

**SABBATH SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS:**

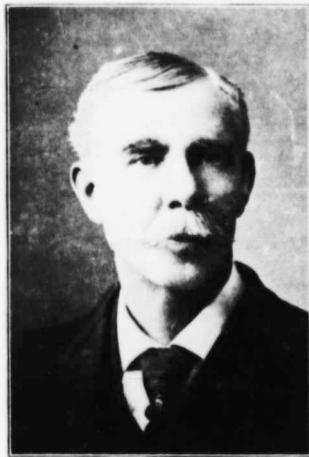
WM. OGILVIE	JOHN BELL		
WM. LOGAN	JOHN WOOD	JAMES DAVIDSON	CHARLES FRENCH
J. P. HUME	JAMES DONALD	C. L. OWEN	
W. W. CUMMING	W. J. ARMSTRONG	T. S. PORTE	
Seymour West (Branch) S. S.—THOMAS RUTHERFORD, JR.			
T. S. PORTE, Secretary of Sabbath School for 25 years—1883 to 1908			

**MANAGING COMMITTEE ELECTED MARCH 13th, 1869:**

DANIEL KENNEDY	WM. LOGAN	W. ROSS
JOHN DICKSON	J. RUTHERFORD	D. JOHNSTON
THOS. RUTHERFORD, SR.	MR. BLACK	MR. McCOOK
JAMES DAVIDSON, SR.	MR. COCHRANE	MR. SMITH
ROBERT CURLE	DR. BOGART	MR. WHITE
WM. BEATTIE	HUGH GIBB	MR. OGILVIE
	MR. MASSIE	

From 1869 to 1908, in addition to the above, the following names appear on the Managing Board :

ALEX. WADDELL	JAMES ROLLO	ALEX. DONALD
JOSEPH TEMPLE	JOHN RUTHERFORD	THOS. RUTHERFORD, JR.
R. SCOTT	JAMES CUMMING	T. W. CARLAW, M. D.
WM. GRUNWALD	JOHN CLARK	J. G. MATHIESON
JOHN WOOD	JOHN SHANNON	T. S. PORTE
MR. MCNAUGHTON	CHARLES FRENCH	JAMES A. MASSIE
THOS. HALL	A. DONALD	JAMES DONALD
WALTER GIVEN	S. J. POTTER	W. J. ARMSTRONG
JAMES WATTERS	W. R. MANNING	JAMES A. O. CONNOR
JOHN W. JOHNSTON	COLIN DOW	C. H. CASSAN
ROBERT COCK	JAS. R. MCRAE	JOHN GOVAN
GEORGE JAMES	JOHN WARWICK	C. L. OWEN
GRANVILLE ROLLO	HENRY MCKELVIE	NEIL THOMPSON
JAMES DICKSON	W. W. CUMMING	GEO. ANDERSON
G. MASON	D. H. DOUGLAS	JAS. A. STEWART
JAMES WHYTE	JOHN P. HUME	WM. COCK
	JOHN GRAHAM	



JAMES DICKSON  
LEADER OF THE SERVICE OF PRAISE  
FOR 20 YEARS



THOMAS S. PORTE  
SECRETARY OF THE SABBATH SCHOOL  
FOR 20 YEARS



FOUR MINISTERS OF ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH  
WHO MET AT VANCOUVER AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN 1900



A VIEW OF PART OF CAMPBELLFORD IN 1908

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**St. Andrew's Church, Campbellford**

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**EXPLANATION**

No records of meetings of Session can be found before the year 1884.

The Managers' book for the years 1886-1898 cannot be found. Hence list of Managers is incomplete, as far as this period is concerned.

**NOTES**

At the annual meeting of the congregation on January 18th, 1870, the revenue of the congregation for the support of ordinances was reported to be \$378.26. This amount included \$115.50, the proceeds of two soirees.

As illustrating the changed methods of church work, the following item, taken from the report of a meeting of the Board of Management held in 1870, is interesting:

"Moved and seconded,—That those of the church who live in the country each contribute a cord of wood for the use of the minister, and those who live in the village cut it.—Carried."

**MEMBERSHIP**

Number of Communicants on Roll in 1885 . . . . .	192
Number of Communicants on Roll beginning of 1908 . .	407

**ORGANIZATIONS**

It would have been interesting, if such had been possible, to have given a short history of the various organizations in connection with the congregation.

Many faithful ones, especially ladies, have labored in connection with these different societies.

No record of their names is here given, but their work is known to the Master, and He will surely reward His servants.