

SOUVENIR  
OF THE  
JUBILEE OF KNOX CHURCH  
TIVERTON

1858 - 1908

JUNE 20 AND 21, 1908

NEC TAMEN CONSUMEBATUR

His testimony and His law  
In Isr'el He did place,  
And charged our fathers it to show  
To their succeeding race.

That so the race which was to come  
Might well them learn and know  
And sons unborn who should arise  
Might to their sons them show.

That they might set their hope in God  
And suffer not to fall —  
His mighty works out of their minds  
But keep His precepts all.

Vide.

—Ps. LXXVIII, 5-7.

## NOTE

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The accompanying sketch of the history of the Congregation will doubtless be of some interest to all the people of the Congregation. For the facts of this history I am indebted (1) to the Records of the Session; (2) to Prof. James Bal'antyne, D.D., of Knox College, who kindly made some extracts from the Minutes of Presbytery of London, and (3) to Mr. J. P. MacIntyre who was connected with the Congregation from the first, and whose mind is clear though his physical strength has failed him. The Minutes of a Session Book are not the materials out of which an interesting narrative can be made, and yet it is well at this time to put some of these matters on record because the generation that took part in the work in the early years is fast passing away, and in two or three years more there will be none left who knew these matters at first hand.

May the Divine Blessing rest on the people of the Congregation now, and in the days to come.

K. MacLENNAN,  
Minister of Knox Church.



Knox Church

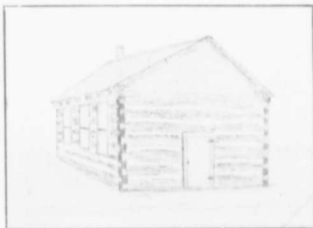
# History of Knox Church, Tiverton

FROM ITS FOUNDATION TO THE JUBILEE IN JUNE 1699

**I**N writing the early history of this congregation it may be well to observe that the country around Tiverton was settled in the year 1851, and that a very large proportion of the pioneers was either Scotch or of Scottish descent and, as might be expected, the Presbyterian Church was strongly represented among them. During the four years following 1851 there were no regular religious services held among the Presbyterians of this vicinity; but missionaries and ministers came from time to time as the Presbytery of London met on the 9th day of January, 1856, the Rev. Daniel Clark was appointed to Kincairdine and the surrounding townships. When the Presbytery of London met on the 12th day of August, 1856, a letter was read by Mr. Hugh Matheson of Bruce, in the name of the Presbyterians of Bruce, requesting a



**First  
Knox  
Church  
Erected  
1862**



**First  
Church  
in  
South  
Bruce**

supply of preaching, and the administration of the Lord's Supper. The Presbytery appointed the Rev. John MacNaughton to Bruce for one Sabbath, and also appointed Rev. Messrs. MacNaughton and Ferguson to dispense the Communion at Bruce on the 3rd Sabbath of October, 1856. The same year a meeting was held at the house of Mr. Gunn on the 6th session of the Township of Bruce with a view to the erection of a Presbyterian church in the immediate future. There were present at that meeting Hector Mackay, Hugh Matheson, Donald Stewart, John Patterson, and John P. MacIntyre. Nothing definite was done because the meeting was not largely attended. A second meeting was convened at Sinclair's Corners when a Building Committee was appointed of which Mr. Malcolm MacKay was Chairman, and Mr. John P. MacIntyre, Secretary. The Committee went to work without delay, and in 1857 a log church, with dimensions of forty by



**Rev. Alexander and Mrs. MacKay**  
Pastor 1860-1868

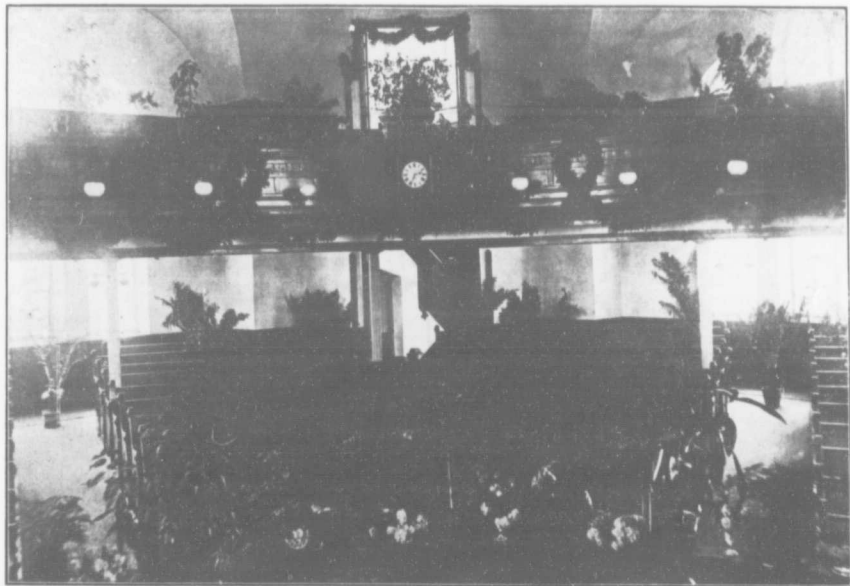
thirty-five feet, was erected. It was seated with planks laid upon blocks of wood. In this Church the Congregation of South Bruce worshipped for four or five years. In January, 1858, Rev. Messrs. Scott and MacDiarmid were appointed by the Presbytery of London to visit the congregation, and in the following July Mr. Alexander MacKay was appointed to remain in the congregation until the end of August. On the 7th of October in the same year, the united congregations of the townships of Bruce, designated as Greenock Station, South Station and North Station, presented a petition to the Presbytery of London praying the Presbytery to moderate in a Call. The prayer of the petition was granted, and Rev. Messrs. John Scott and John Ross were appointed to moderate at South Bruce on the 4th of November, and Mr. Hector MacKay was appointed to serve the edict at all the Stations. In January, 1860, a call was presented to the Presbytery from Bruce in favour of Mr. John Stewart, but it was laid on the table as Mr. Stewart would not be eligible for a call until after the meeting of Synod. Mr. Stewart having been duly licensed was again called by South Bruce, but declined the call. On the 27th of September, 1860, the Presbytery received a petition from South Bruce asking permission to elect and ordain elders. The Presbytery deferred consideration of the petition, but agreed to meet the congregation for the purpose of moderating in a call to a minister on the 2nd Wednesday of December, 1860.

#### Pastorate of Rev. Alexander MacKay

On the 3rd of January, 1860, a call was presented from South Bruce and Greenock in favor of Rev. Alexander MacKay promising a stipend of four hundred and forty dollars. Mr. MacKay accepted the call, and was ordained, and inducted at South Bruce on the 25th April, 1860, as minister of South Bruce and Greenock. Rev. Archibald Currie, presided, and preached the induction sermon from II Corinthians V. 24. Rev. George Bremner of Blyth, addressed the Minister, and Rev.



**Mr. John Urquhart**  
Elder

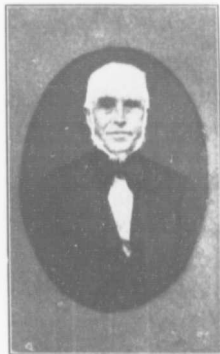


View of Gallery from the Pulpit showing the Jubilee Decorations, June 1909



**Mr. Robert Thorrington**  
Elder

John Stewart of Kincardine addressed the people. The Presbytery also appointed assessors to act with Mr. MacKay in forming a session for the united congregations. On the 27th of September, 1890, the following were ordained and inducted as elders, viz: Hester Mackay, John Matheson, Dugald McLennan, John MacRae, Murdoch MacDonald, Hugh Cameron, and John MacLeod. The same day a Communion Roll was made up, and the number enrolled was sixty-four. Five were received on profession of their faith. Communion services were held at Greenock on the Sabbath following. The Gaelic service was held in the bush, and the English in the church. The minister was assisted on this occasion by Revs. J. Stewart, G. Brenner, and William Matheson. The following year at the communion services at South Bruce in July, the Rev. Donald MacKenzie of Embro, and the Rev. John Fraser, later of Kincardine, assisted. Other ministers who assisted at communion in those early years were Revs. Alexander Grant, John Ross, W. R. Sutherland, Charles Cameron, Ewen MacLean, James Greenfield, Alexander Fraser, Adam MacKay, and Prof. George Paxton Young of Knox College, later of Toronto University. The congregation of South Bruce built a new church in 1892 at Tiverton on the site occupied by the present edifice. This was a frame building, fifty by thirty-five feet, and was for the time a commodious and comfortable building. In 1895 we find "Presbyterian Church, Tiverton," replacing the designation of South Bruce church, although the congregation was commonly known as South Bruce for some time longer. The village of Tiverton was coming into existence about the time Mr. MacKay was settled. Mr. Norman MacInnes had taken up his residence there. He was a life-long friend of the congregation, and acted for years as its Treasurer. He subscribed liberally for the erection of the new church, but passed away in March 1890, before the church was erected. Mr. John Matheson, a faithful acting elder of the congregation from its first organization passed to his rest and reward in September, 1893. The following



**Mr. Wm. Wilson**  
Elder





Rev. and Mrs. John Anderson

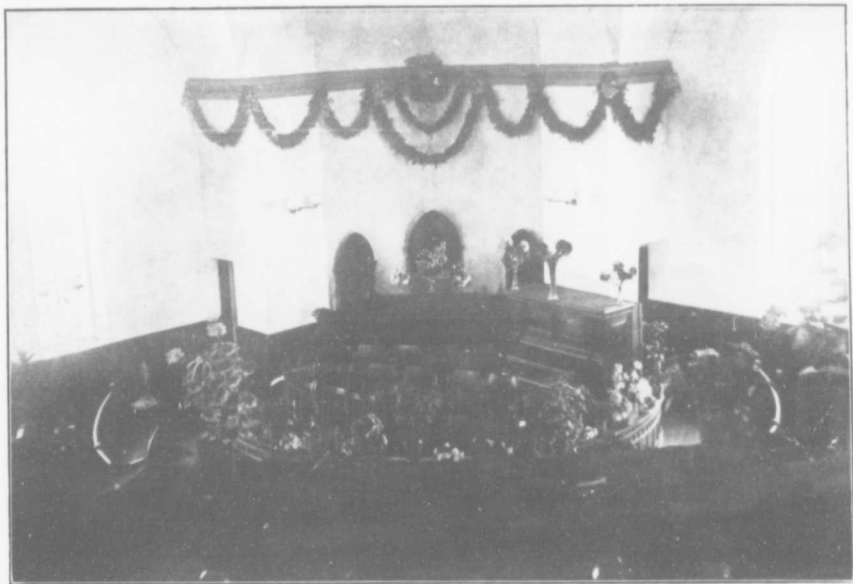
year, Robert Stroner, John Thorrrington, John Urquhart, and William Wilson were added to the session and Rev. Dr. Burns of Knox College preached the ordination sermon. The Rev. Alexander MacKay was called to Elmira, U. S., in the summer of 1868, and accepted the call. Among the obituary notices of the Assembly blue book for 1905 is the following notice—The Rev. Alexander MacKay D. D. was born at Embro, Ont., and received his education at Toronto University and Knox College, graduating in 1850. He was ordained and inducted at Tiverton the next year, and labored there for eight years. Accepting a call to Elmira, he remained there till 1873, and was then called to East Puslinch, Ont., from which place he was translated to Chalmers' Church, Dunwich, where he remained till his retirement, and removal to Toronto. He died after a long illness on the 13th of August, 1904. He worked faithfully at South Bruce and Greenock, and was very highly esteemed by the generation that knew him in these parts.

#### Pastorate of Rev. John Anderson

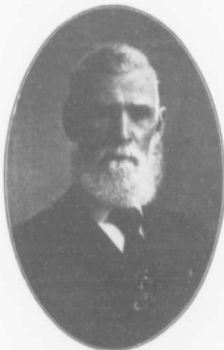
The Presbytery of Huron appointed Rev. John Fraser of Kincardine interim moderator of session at Tiverton during the vacancy. At a meeting of session held in July 1868 the question of effecting a separation from the Greenock Station was discussed and this separation took place during the vacancy. The congregation was without a settled minister for a year and nine months, but was supplied from Sabbath to Sabbath by students, missionaries and probationers. Mr. Fraser does not appear to have kept any record of the meetings of session or if he did they were lost; but the main facts were collected some time after Mr. Anderson was settled over the congregation. Rev. John Anderson of Lancaster responded to the second call sent from Tiverton, and was inducted on the 2nd of March 1870. Shortly after Mr. Anderson came, the church had to be enlarged. A Manse was built in the summer of 1871. Messrs. John Dewar, Geo. McCallum, and Robert Cooper became members of the session in the same year. Dugald



Mr. John MacRae  
Elder



Interior View of Knox Church at time of Jubilee Celebration, June 1909



**Mr. Neil Gilchrist**  
Elder

MacLennan a member of the original session passed to his rest, in 1873, and a minute of session takes note of the esteem in which he was held by the minister, and other elders. Early in 1875 the Underwood section of the congregation was separated by mutual consent from Tiverton, and constituted in union with Centre Bruce into a separate pastoral charge as it still continues to be. Mr. Richard May was precentor and choir leader in the congregation for some years, and was followed in succession by Hugh MacRae, George McArthur, John MacKenzie, and D. E. MacLaurin. Mr. MacLaurin was precentor and choir leader for twenty-six years. Rev. Mr. Anderson was called to Knox Church, Harriston, in 1878, but, at the earnest solicitation of the session and congregation he was induced to decline the call. William Wilson, one of the elders departed this life in 1875, and the session records express appreciation of his character and services. In June 1884, Messrs J. P. MacIntyre, Neil Gilchrist, John A. Mackenzie, and Murdoch MacLeod were inducted as elders of the congregation. John MacRae, a member of the session for over 23 years died this year. He is described as a faithful elder, a friend of the cause and of the people of God, zealous and liberal in his support of the Church, and all her interests. The congregation continued to grow during Mr. Anderson's ministry until somewhat checked by the removal of families to the West. Notwithstanding such losses which continue up to this day, the congregation has held its own very well throughout the years. Mr. Murdoch MacLeod, one of the elders, and father of Rev. J. R. MacLeod of Three Rivers, died in 1887. He is said to have been a real friend of the cause, faithful in the discharge of his duties, regular in attending the means of grace, and highly respected by all who knew him. Three years after passed away Mr. Hector MacKay an excellent man, who had been connected with the congregation from the beginning. He was senior elder of the congregation, and had been precentor in the Gaelic for many years. He too obtains a good report in the minutes of the session. He is said to have been an elder for



**Mr. and Mrs. Hector MacKay**  
Elder



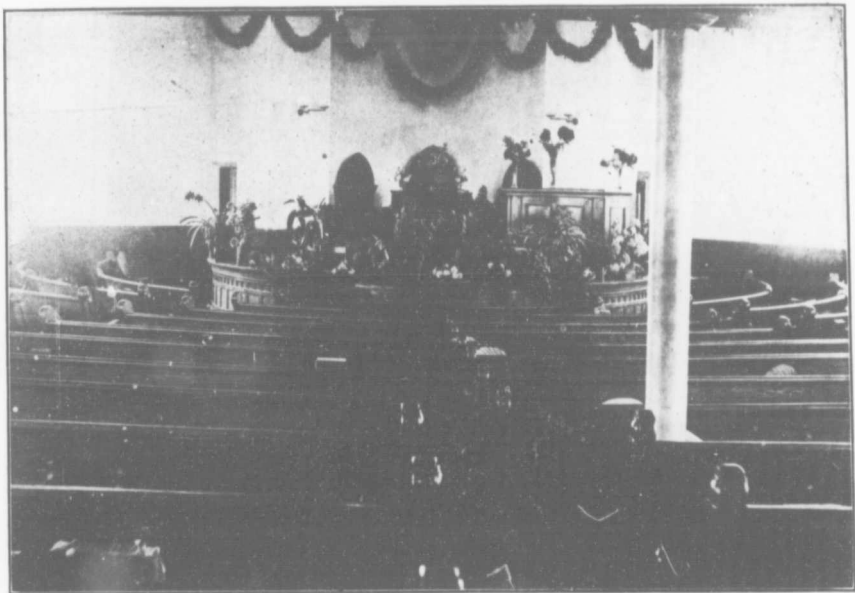
**Mr. George Ord**  
Elder

thirty years, having been ordained in September, 1860. His house was a warm home for the ministers and missionaries who visited the congregation in its infancy. He was liberal in the support of the cause and zealous and faithful in maintaining good discipline. "They rest from their labors and their works do follow them."

Mr. Anderson, as he saw these good and true men drop one after another from his side, must have felt the shadows of evening gather round himself. He held on his way for three years more, and retired from the active work of the ministry in the summer of 1894, being the 24th year at Tiverton, and the 40th year of his ministry. The Rev. John Anderson was a native of Abernethy, Scotland, where he was born in 1823. The family emigrated to Canada when he was but a lad, and settled in the neighborhood of Ottawa. In God's good time he was converted, and was led to dedicate himself to the preaching of the gospel. He graduated from Knox College in 1854, and was soon after settled at Lancaster and Cote St. George where he labored until called to Tiverton. Mr. Anderson was a man of great physical as well as mental strength. He was a hard worker, and a powerful preacher of the gospel. His two sons followed in the footsteps of their father, and are able preachers. James is minister of Knox Church, Goderich, for over twenty years. John is minister of Beauharnois, in the Province of Quebec. Mr. Anderson passed the evening of his days at Tiverton, and after a lingering illness entered into his rest and reward in April, 1908. Mrs. Anderson predeceased her husband two years. Mr. Anderson left four daughters, two of whom, Mrs. Macdonald and Mrs. Mackenzie still reside at Tiverton. The following entered the ministry during Mr. Anderson's long pastorate. Rev. James A. Anderson B. A., Rev. George McArthur B. A., Rev. Dugald McArthur B. D., Rev. John McArthur B. A., Rev. Archibald Mackenzie B. D., Rev. J. D. Anderson B. A., and Rev. D. C. Cameron B. A. The Presbytery of Bruce appointed Rev. James Fitzpatrick of Underwood interim moderator during the vacancy.



**Mr. D. E. MacLaurin**  
Precentor



Interior View of Knox Church at Jubilee Celebration, June 1900



**Rev. James Steven**  
**Pastor, 1895-1897**

### Pastorate of Rev. James Steven

Rev. James Steven was inducted as minister of the congregation on the 21st of January, 1895. His term was short in Tiverton but he did excellent work, and was very popular in the congregation. The nucleus of a building fund for the erection of a new church was formed in his time.

George Ord, Donald Matheson, Jas. Murray jr., and P. D. Cameron, were ordained and inducted as elders. John Crquhart who had been a member of the session for nearly thirty years departed this life in 1896. He was a true and godly man and a staunch supporter of the cause of Christ all his days. Mr. Crquhart was highly respected by all who knew him in the vicinity, and his demise was deplored as a real loss to the Church of God, but he had served his generation by the will of God and had fallen asleep in Jesus, and gone to be with Him which is very far better. Mr. Steven received a call to Dutton in the summer of 1897. There he labored for seven or eight years. He is now minister of Cote-des-Neiges, near Montreal.

### Pastorate of Rev. K. MacLennan, B.D., Ph.D.

The congregation extended a call to the present minister in November, 1897, and he was inducted on the 30th of December following. Mr. MacLennan had just returned from Honan, China, where he had labored as a missionary for four years.

At the annual meeting of Knox Church in 1899 it was decided to build a new church.

A canvass of the congregation was made by the minister and J. A. Mackenzie which justified the resolution passed at the annual meeting. The people of the congregation hauled sand, stone, brick, and other material. A plan submitted by Mr. Fawcett of Sarnia was, with certain modifications, accepted and tenders were called for the work. The contract for the stone, and brick-work, and plastering



**Mrs. James Steven**



**Rev. K. MacLennan**  
Minister since 1897

was given to Mr. Duff of Port Elgin, and that for the wood-work to Mr. Stevens of Chesley. Minor contracts for other work were let to different parties. On the 2nd of July, 1900, the corner stone of the new Knox Church was well and truly laid by the late Henry Cargill, M. P., of Cargill, Ontario. Mr. Cargill was presented with a silver trowel, suitably engraved, by Mrs. MacLennan of the Manse and John A. MacKenzie, chairman of Building Committee. It was a perfect summer day, and a vast throng of people assembled. Speeches were made at the laying of the corner stone, and also at the supper which followed. The late Dr. R. G. Murison was marshal for the day, took great interest in all the proceedings. The following gentlemen spoke—Revs. John Anderson, John Johnstone, Jas. Fitzpatrick, P. M. McEachern, J. L. Murray, D. D., F. A. MacLennan, and F. O. Nichol; and Messrs. W. M. Dack, ex-M. P. P., Andrew Malcolm, M. P. P., Mayor Mackendrick, and D. MacNaughton, M. P. P. It was a day of gladness unmarred by any untoward accident. By the end of the year the church was finished, and on the first Sabbath of the New Century was dedicated to the service of God by the late Rev. Principal Grant, D. D., of Queen's University who preached in the morning from Haggai II. 9 "The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the Lord of Hosts; and in this place will I give peace, saith the Lord of Hosts". In the evening the church was crowded to overflowing, and a service had to be conducted in the lecture room. Dr. Grant preached in the evening from St. Mark XIV:26, and his theme was "the test of a good work". Dr. Grant also addressed the Sabbath School. Rev. James Steven and Rev. R. G. Murison had charge of the service in the lecture room. Rev. P. M. McEachern conducted a service in the Gaelic language in the afternoon at which Rev. John Anderson assisted. The tea-meeting on Monday was equally successful, and the proceeds of the offerings on Sabbath, and of the tea-meeting exceeded six hundred dollars. The debt on the church at the time it was opened must have been



**Mrs. MacLennan**  
The Manse, Tiverton



Session of Knox Church





**Mr and Mrs. J. P. McIntyre**  
Elder

over four thousand dollars. The Board of Managers for that year was composed as follows—Duncan Cameron (Chairman), D. J. MacIntyre, Albert Symon, Murdoch McLeod, Hector McCallum, W. J. Farrell, Hugh McEwen, John Kinmond, A. H. MacKay and H. K. Wilson (Secretary), and the Building Committee was as follows, viz. John A. MacKenzie (Chairman), James Montgomery, A. H. MacKay, D. J. MacIntyre, Jacob Grunder, Hector McCallum, W. J. Farrell, Duncan Cameron, and John A. MacKellar (Secretary). The Session was—Rev. K. MacLennan, B. D., and John Dewar, J. P. MacIntyre, George McCallum, George Ord, James Murray, sr., Donald Matheson, P. D. Cameron, J. A. MacKenzie, and James Murray, jr.

The following gentlemen have also at some time or other served on the Board of Managers in recent years, viz. Matthew Mitchell, John Patton, James Wells, Hugh McVean, J. L. MacKenzie, Peter Urquhart.

Mr. A. H. MacKay after a long term of service as caretaker resigned about two years ago. Mr. D. J. MacIntyre is the caretaker at present. Mr. MacIntyre is also financial secretary. Duncan McArthur and Fred MacLaurin were also caretakers of the church for short periods.

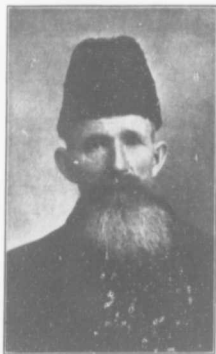
The choir has had for leader, for some time past, the efficient organist, Miss Lizzie Paterson.

Among the treasurers of the congregation have been, the late Norman MacInnes, Adam Patterson, R. Roche, P. J. Brown, J. G. McArthur, and Alexander McKinnon.

The Sabbath School has had as superintendents of late years, D. E. MacLaurin, J. A. MacKenzie, T. A. Marshall, Neil Matheson, P. J. Brown, and P. D. Cameron who still holds office. Some who a few years ago were workers in the Sabbath School are no longer in these parts, as Neil Matheson, Duncan MacIntyre, Mrs. McRae, Miss Flynn, Mrs. McCallum, and Mrs. MacKinnon (Miss MacKay), and some others as well. Mrs. Angus Gilchrist who died in the church at the annual meeting in 1887 was interested in all the work of the church,



**Mr. William Munro**  
on the Board of Managers



Mr. Angus MacKau  
Caretaker

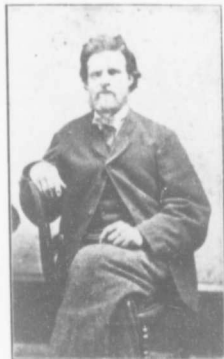
and was president of the Ladies' Aid Society. This Society has always been a great help to the finances of the church, and is still. The President for this year is Mrs. D. E. McLaurin and Mrs. A. Macdonald is Secretary, and Mrs. John Munro, Treasurer.

The W. F. M. S. Auxilliary was organized in 1888 with Mrs. MacLennan of the Manse, as President. This Society also does excellent work in its own line. The President for this year is Mrs. P. J. Brown; Miss A. B. Dewar, Secretary; and Miss Kate Murray, Treasurer. The Young People's Guild has had a brief but helpful career. Mr. W. J. Gilchrist of the Standard Bank is the President, and Miss Kate McDonald Secretary, and Miss Helen Macdonald Treas. Prof. Ballantyne of Knox College preached the Anniversary Services of the Church in January 1902. Other gentlemen who have done so of late years are; late Rev. Prof. Mackenzie of Montreal, Rev. James Steven, Rev. D. Perry, Rev. John MacKinnon B. D., Rev. R. Thynne M. A., Rev. J. L. Murray D. D., Rev. D. T. L. McKerrol, and twice Rev. K. MacLennan B. D. In December last, the following were duly ordained and inducted as elders, namely, Lachlan Bell, Dugald Mackenzie, D. J. MacIntyre, and A. R. Bell. James Murray jr., removed from the bounds last year to our great regret, and Mr. Ord sr., a man respected and beloved, passed peacefully into his rest after a short illness on the 17th of March 1900. The debt on the church had been steadily reduced. At the time of the annual meeting two years ago it stood at seventeen hundred dollars. The minister by a vote of the congregation was requested to make a canvas of the people with a view to clearing it off in two years. He did so with the result that the mortgage was discharged in the month of February last. The time was then mature for celebrating the Jubilee of the Congregation. At the annual meeting in January last by a hearty vote of the congregation the Minister's Stipend was increased by two hundred dollars. In April a meeting was convened for the purpose of preparing for the Jubilee. At that meeting a committee was appointed to take the whole matter in



Board of Managers of Knox Church for 1909

charge. The committee fixed the 20th and 21st of June for the days of the Jubilee Celebrations. The committee agreed to invite Rev. James Steven, a former pastor, to preach, and also Rev. J. A. Anderson of Goderich, son of the late Rev. John Anderson. It was also agreed to invite Rev. F. A. MacLennan to preach a sermon in the Gaelic language in the afternoon. The ladies under the guidance of Miss Matheson were to look after the supper and the Guild directed by Miss Turner was left in charge of the decorations. The ladies, and Guild and indeed all the people, worked with such heartiness as to make everything a perfect success and joy. We heard endless encomiums passed upon the decorations which were certainly most beautiful, and the dainty and bountiful supper was no small task to prepare for the crowds that gathered that evening. We have often been favoured with perfect weather in the matters connected with the church, but never more signally than during the Jubilee days. Sabbath and Monday were just the perfection of midsummer days. The church was closely filled in the morning when Rev. James Steven conducted the service. He took for his text I Cor. XIII, 13, and his theme was "Charity, the greatest thing in the World." Mr. Steven spoke for fifty minutes and yet the people did not seem to lose interest until the end came. Mr. Steven and Mr. Anderson addressed the Sabbath School in the afternoon. Owing to the unavoidable absence of Rev. F. A. MacLennan, Dr. MacLennan had to preach the Gaelic and did so from Ps. CXXXII 6, "Lo, we heard of it at Ephratah, we found it in the fields of the wood." Rev. Jas. A. Anderson of Goderich preached a very appropriate sermon from Phil. III, 13, "Forgetting those things that are behind, and reaching forth to those things that are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." The services of the day were apparently being enjoyed by all, and doubtless many will remember with pleasure for the rest of their days the Jubilee Sabbath on the 20th June, 1900. On Monday, the weather, as remarked, proved equally charming, and the



Mr. James Murray  
Elder



Mr. John McKenzie  
Elder

people were to work early in the afternoon preparing for the evening. Supper was served free to all the people of the congregation and their friends which really meant the whole neighborhood. There was however, enough and to spare for all. Miss Matheson and Mrs. Macdonald and all the other ladies deserve all the praise given to them for their work that day. In the evening the Auditorium of the Church was packed to overflowing. The night became very sultry, but the utmost good nature prevailed, and there was no disorder of any kind to mar the enjoyment of the evening. H. Ruthven Macdonald, baritone soloist, is a host in himself, and his singing is enough to give tone and dignity to any meeting. He sang seven in the course of the evening. Addresses of a congratulatory nature were delivered on behalf of the Presbytery of Bruce by Revs. John McKimmon and Thomas Wilson. Short addresses were also made by Dr. Johnson and Mr. Cook of the Baptist and Methodist Church respectively. Rev. Andrew MacNab of Underwood and Rev. W. C. MacLeod of Port Elgin also spoke in a very kindly way. The last speeches were by Rev. Jas. A. Anderson and Rev. James Steven. Reference was frequently made in these addresses to the work of the pioneers who made the building of the Church of God coeval with the clearing of the virgin forest. Our indebtedness to them was pointed out, and our duty to serve God in our generation, and to transmit to those who shall come after us His testimony, and His law that they may put their hope in God, and serve Him throughout the length of days. Of the old elders a few still remain with us though none of the original session. Mr. John Dewar and Mr. George McCallum were able to attend the jubilee services but our venerable and beloved elder Mr. J. P. MacIntyre who has been connected with the congregation from the very beginning, though still spared, was not able to be out which we regret very greatly. Mr. John Mather a former member of our session is still living in Kincairdine. All these will soon be gone beyond the bar into the blessed heaven of rest which God hath provided for all who love Him and serve Him. May the blessing of God rest abundantly upon His cause in this congregation in time to come, and may the centennial celebrations find Knox Church, Tiverton, still flourishing and holding forth the Word of life. "This is our God forever and ever. He will be our guide even unto death. Lo! I am with you always even to the end of the days."