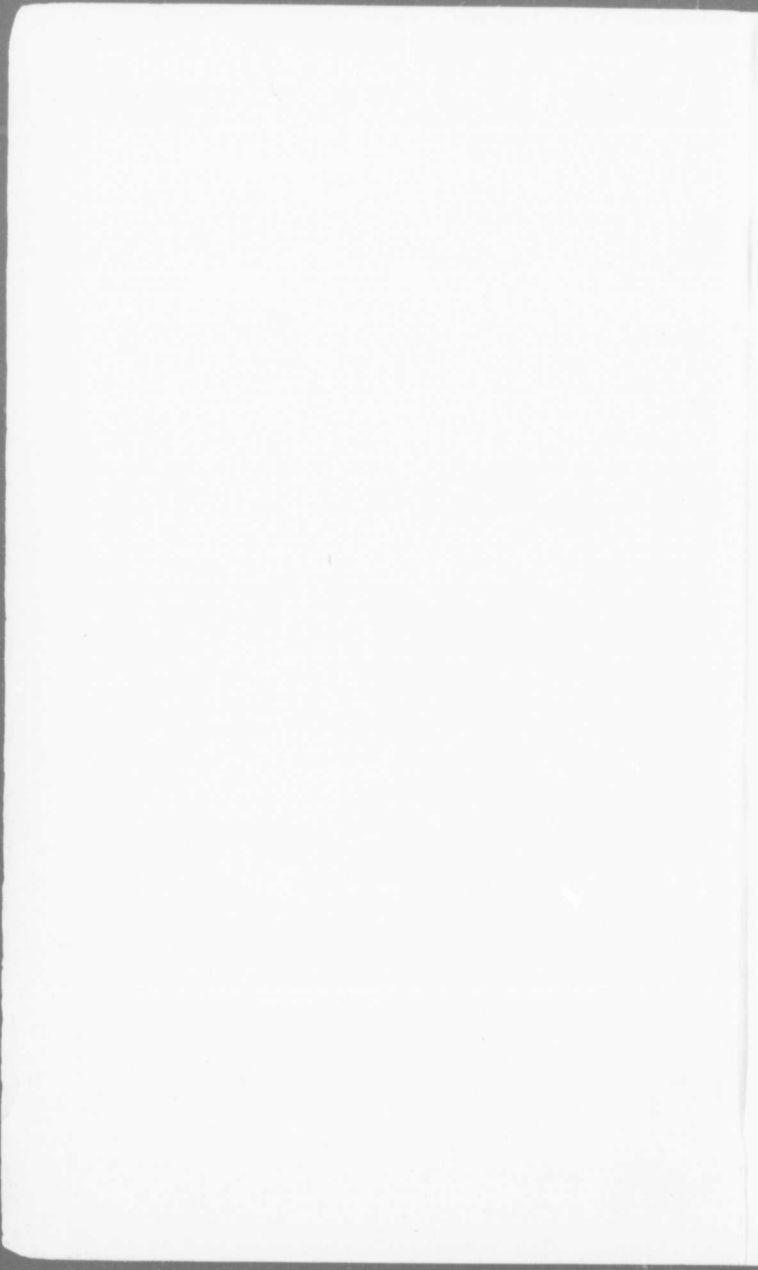

Presbyterianism
in
West Amherst Church



1833-1908





JUBILEE .:
OF THE
West Flamboro' and
Lynden Presbyterian Churches

HISTORICAL SKETCH
BY
REV. S. W. FISHER, B.A.

Seventy-fifth Anniversary of the Organization of
the West Flamboro Presbyterian Church
1832--1908

AND

Twenty-fifth of the Pastorate of the
Rev. S. W. Fisher, B.A.
1883-1908





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- II. Pastorate of the Rev. Thomas Christie, and Organization of the West Flamboro Congregation.
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- IV. Pastorate of the Rev. Aaron William Benson.
- V. Pastorate of the Rev. George Chrystal.
- VI. Pastorate of the Rev. Simeon Whidden Fisher, B.A.
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PREFACE

At a union meeting of the Session and Board of Managers held in April, 1908, it was agreed to observe the seventy-fifth anniversary of the organization of the West Flamboro congregation, and the twenty-fifth of the pastorate of the Rev. S. W. Fisher, B.A. After due consideration it was decided to have the celebration on November 1st and 2nd, with a tea-meeting on the Monday evening, to which representatives of the Presbytery, and of the different districts in which the Rev. Thomas Christie, the founder of the congregation, had labored, should be invited to give short addresses suitable for such an occasion. It was also agreed to invite former pastors still living, with any others who had been identified with the congregation in the past.

It was further agreed to prepare a brief history of the congregation and publish it for the information of the members and adherents of the congregation, and all others interested therein, said history to embrace an account of the origin of the congregation, with all the important events that have transpired during the seventy-five years of its existence. It was also agreed to invite the Session and Managers of the Lynden congregation to unite in all these services, and in preparing a history of that congregation to be included with the above historical portion. At the same meeting committees were appointed to carry out all these decisions. The historical committee to consist of the pastor, as convener, with T. S. Henderson, secretary; John Lawson and John Ireland, to which were added later on John F. Thompson and Frank Hanes, with R. A. Thompson and William Baird, from Lynden.

In preparing this history we have aimed to be faithful and impartial in the statement of facts, which were regarded by the committee as necessary in a sketch of this kind, so far as the information could be procured. For any omissions or mistakes that may have been inadvertently made, we crave the indulgence of our readers as this is our first experience at book-making.

The Session and Managers of the united charge would dedicate this volume to the memory of those worthy pioneers who laid the foundations of Presbyterianism in West Flamboro and Beverly amidst many difficulties and privations, with the earnest hope that the record of the noble deeds of the fathers and mothers may stimulate their successors to greater efforts in promoting the prosperity of the Spiritual heritage with which the Lord has intrusted them.

CHAPTER I.

Commencement of Presbyterianism in
West Flamboro.

Presbyterianism in West Flamboro so far as can be ascertained from records, dates back to 1825, when the Rev. Geo. Sheed, who was a native of Scotland, educated at Aberdeen, and a licentiate of the Church of Scotland, came to Canada as a tutor to the family of the Hon. James Crooks, then living in West Flamboro and carrying on extensive manufacturing industries, in what was known as Crooks' Hollow. Mr. Sheed conducted Divine service in the Flamboro school-house, and at the request of the people of Ancaster he preached regularly on alternate Sabbaths in a hall that had been recently erected there, in which an Episcopal minister also officiated. Having returned to Scotland he was ordained there in 1827, and coming back to Canada the same year, was inducted into the pastoral charge of Ancaster and Flamboro, and continued in this charge until his death on November 26, 1832. Mr. Sheed is described by those who knew of his labors there, as an indefatigable worker for church and people. His home was about a mile or more from the village in the beautiful valley of Sulphur Springs in the original Hermitage house in that locality. During the closing part of his ministry a church was built in Ancaster entirely of wood, but was not completed when Mr. Sheed took sick and died.

The first service held in the new church was indeed a solemn one, being the funeral of their beloved pastor. His death occurred before the interior of the church was finished. A temporary floor was laid in haste over the beams and a funeral service conducted, after which his remains were buried in the cemetery near the church, the first to be laid therein.

The funeral sermon was preached in the new church, December 2nd, the Episcopal service in the village being given up for that day. A stone was erected with the following inscription: "Sacred to the memory of Rev. G. Sheed, A.M., a native of Aberdeen, who planted this church and having faithfully watched over it for the space of six years was removed to his reward on the 25th November, 1832, in the 43rd year of his age. His friends have erected this stone as a memorial of their esteem for his worth as a man and his zeal and ability as a minister. "The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance."



REV. THOMAS CHRISTIE
Missionary and First Pastor.



MRS. THOMAS CHRISTIE

CHAPTER II.

Organization of the West Flamboro Congregation
and Pastorate of the Rev. Mr. Christie.

Rev. Thomas Christie arrived from Scotland in the Fall of 1832, taking up his residence in West Flamboro, where he took up and carried on the work so well begun by Rev. Mr. Sheed. As far as can be definitely ascertained and determined it would seem that at the commencement of Mr. Christie's work all those who had been meeting in the schoolhouse under Mr. Sheed's ministry, and had belonged to the United Secession Church in Scotland, together with others belonging to the same Church living in West Flamboro and Beverly, and the district immediately surrounding this locality, were formed into a congregation in connection with the United Secession Church under Rev. Mr. Christie's direction and care. We find reference to this fact in the Flamboro records. In the obituary minute anent the death of Mr. Stephen Nisbet, which occurred on February 4rd, 1873, this statement is made: "Mr. Stephen Nisbet, for upwards of thirty-five years a member of the Kirk Session, and a member of the congregation since its formation in the year 1832." Mr. Nisbet belonged to the first Session under Rev. Mr. Christie's pastorate, according to said records, having been ordained and inducted to the office of ruling elder on or about the eighteenth day of December, 1833.

From this minute it would seem evident that the Flamboro congregation was organized by Mr. Christie in November or December, 1832, almost immediately after his arrival in the district. The newly formed congregation of Flamboro West, as it is called in the records, thereafter met in a school house on lot one, first concession of Beverly, nearly opposite to where the first wooden church was erected in Flamboro, just south of the present stone church. To this congregation

Mr. Christie continued to minister until April 1833, when he received and accepted a call of which the following is an exact copy of the original document now in possession of a member of his family living in St. George:

"We, the undersigned members of the Presbyterian Church of West Flamboro and Beverly and the neighboring townships in connection with the United Associate Synod in Scotland, being destitute of the privileges of the Gospel and earnestly desirous of possessing them, and being persuaded by good report and our own experience of the fitness for the work of the ministry of you, the Rev. Thomas Christie, missionary of the said United Associate Synod do by these presents, invite, entreat and call you to become our pastor and to take the oversight of our souls in the Lord and we hereby promise you all due submission, encouragement and subsistence in the work of the ministry. Given under our hand this second day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty-three before

WILLIAM ROBINSON, witness.

PHILLIP MILLER, witness.

Adam Thompson
Isabella Thompson
Hugh Jamison
James Kirkpatrick
Sarah Kirkpatrick
Stephen Nisbet
Isabella Nisbet
Walter Robertson
Mary Robertson

Adam Elliot
Margaret Elliot
Hugh Nisbet
Elisabeth Nisbet
Robert Camp, Sr.
Elisabeth Bawtinhimer
John Beard
Margaret Beard
Elisabeth Beard

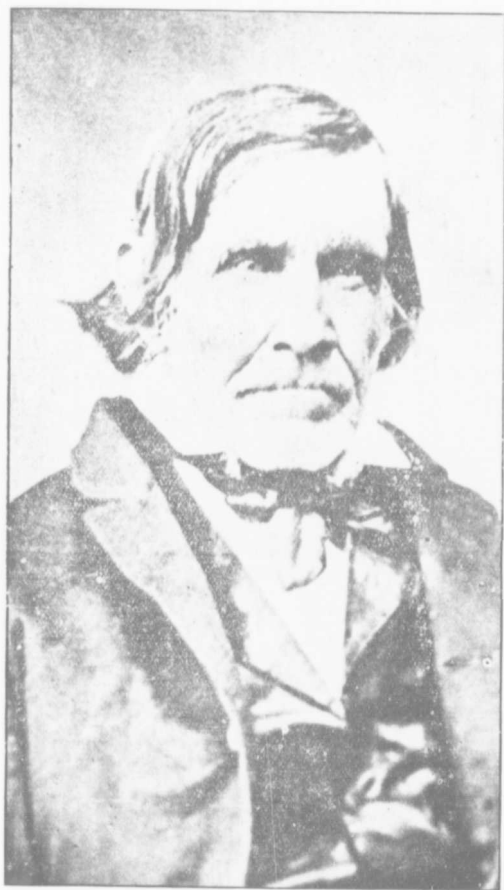
The above names were signed by the persons themselves or by me at their desire.

HUGH JAMIESON, Secretary.

WILLIAM ROBINSON, witness.

PHILLIP MILLER, witness.

The family of Rev. Thomas Christie did not accompany him in 1832, but came the following year with Mr. David Christie, a brother of Rev. Mr. Christie's. The two families left Orkney in July, 1833, and arrived in Montreal about



ROBERT CAMP
First Trustee—1833

the end of August, being about six weeks crossing the ocean, and came on to Kingston, where Rev. Mr. Christie met them. Remaining there some two weeks they proceeded westward, reaching Dundas about the end of September, where they stayed for a short time, and then the two families moved into a frame house in Crook's Hollow, owned by Hcn. James Crooks. Mr. David Christie with his family moved to Paris in the spring of 1834, but Rev. Mr. Christie remained there until the fall of that year, and then moved into a house belonging to Mr. VanEvery, in Flamboro village, where they lived till the Summer of 1837, when they moved into a house on the farm owned by Mr. McGregor. Here they lived for some ten years, when they moved into a house on Mr. Barnard's farm, now owned by Mr. R. L. Biggs, where they lived till 1868, when they moved into the house now known as the manse, which was built in 1867-68 by Mr. Robert Christie for his father and afterwards sold to the congregation for a manse.

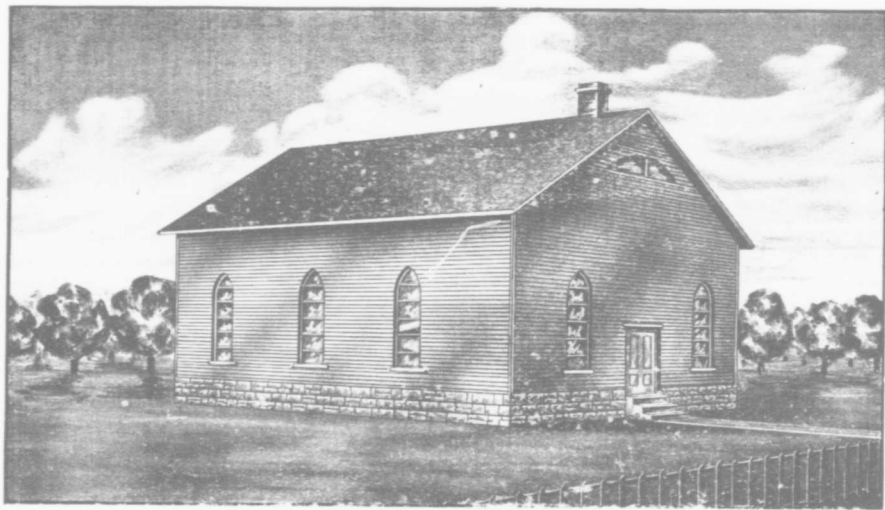
As the Rev. Thomas Christie was an ordained minister prior to his coming to Canada of the United Associate Synod of the Secession Church in Scotland, it seems appropriate and may be of interest just here to refer to the commencement of missionary work in Western Ontario by that Synod. For the following account of such work we are indebted to "History of the Presbyterian Church in Canada," by Rev. Wm. Gregg, D.D.

In the year 1820 the Associate or Burgher and the General Associate or Anti-Burgher Synods of the Secession Church of Scotland were united, and assumed the name of the United Associate Synod of the Secession Church. After this union it was felt by the Secession Church that increased efforts should be made for propagating the Gospel. Accordingly, in 1829, a committee was appointed to prepare a scheme for permanent missionary operations to be submitted to the Presbyteries. The committee deemed it expedient to confine its attention in the first place to Home Missions, but the subject of Foreign Missions was afterwards brought before the Synod, and a resolution adopted to enter on some foreign field. There were diversities of opinion as to the

field to be selected, but in the Synod which met in 1832, it was decided to commence missionary operations in Canada and the adjoining provinces of British America. A few weeks after this meeting three brethren, in every respect well qualified for the work, offered their services as missionaries to Canada. These were the Rev. William Proudfoot, the Rev. William Robertson and the Rev. Thomas Christie. Mr. Proudfoot was educated in the University of Edinburgh, and studied theology under Dr. Lawson, of Selkirk. He was licensed by the Presbytery of Edinburgh in 1812, and on the 11th August, 1813, was ordained to the charge of Pitrodie, in Perthshire, where he remained for seventeen years, and where in addition to his pastoral duties he conducted with success a classical and mathematical academy. Mr. Robertson studied theology under Professor Dick, of Glasgow, and on the 18th of December, 1830, was ordained to the pastoral charge of the Bonnygate Session congregation in Cupar of Fife. Mr. Christie studied theology under Professor Paxton, and was ordained in 1817, to the pastorate charge of the Secession congregation of Holm, in Ponomia, which is the largest of the Orkney Islands, where he remained till his acceptance of the mission to Canada. The offer to these brethren was accepted and having received their appointment and instructions as missionaries they sailed for Canada in July, 1832.

Very soon after their arrival one of their number, Mr. Robertson, was, in the mysterious Providence of God, suddenly removed by death. He had preached a few Sabbaths in Montreal, and had organized a congregation, which was about to give him a call, when he fell a victim to cholera, which had reached the city, and was raging with great severity. His untimely death was much lamented, both by the Church at home and by the people in Montreal, who expected to enjoy his pastoral ministrations.

The two other missionaries travelled to Upper Canada. After an extensive tour through different parts of the province Mr. Proudfoot accepted the charge of a congregation in London, which he retained till his death. He died on the 10th January, 1851, in the sixty-third year of his age and the thirty-eighth of his ministry.



WEST FLAMBORO OLD CHURCH—1833.

Mr. Christie, in going westward through the Province of Upper Canada, preached at Gananoque, Kingston, Hamilton and several other places, and then accepted the pastoral charge of the congregations of West Flamboro, Dumfries and Beverly, each twelve miles from the other two. In Flamboro a wooden church was soon erected, capable of containing two hundred sitters, and costing upwards of £200. In Dumfries also, where at first there were only twelve members, a church was erected at an expense of upwards of £250. In Beverly was a small Scotch colony of eighteen families, who had recently taken up their abode in the heart of the forest, and who had been for the most part connected in Scotland with the United Secession Church. Here for a time the congregation met in a barn or in a private house, but steps were taken to secure the erection of a place of worship.

The following testimonial was given to Mr. Christie on leaving his first charge:

"These certify that the Rev. Thomas Christie, late of Holm, Orkney, is a regularly ordained minister of the Gospel, was a member of the United Associate Synod of the Secession Church and uniformly maintained a highly respectable character for talent, piety and diligence. That he demitted his pastoral charge this month to the great regret of his congregation into the hands of the United Associate Presbytery of Orkney in consequence of his services having been accepted by the committee of Synod on Foreign Missions which demission his Presbytery received, and that he now goes out as a missionary to Canada under the inspection of the Synod and with the best wishes and the prayers of his brethren.

JOHN BROWN, D.D., Chairman.

WILLIAM PEDDIE, Secretary.

JAMES PEDDIE, D.D., Minister.

JOHN RITCHIE, D.D., Minister.

West Flamboro was, however, the headquarter: of Mr. Christie's missionary labors, where as already stated, he had received and accepted a call. He continued to preach in the schoolhouse until the wooden church before referred to was built and ready to be occupied.

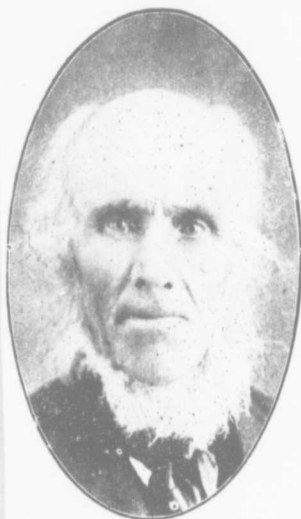
In connection with the selection of the site on which the church was built the following incident is related. Somewhere in the neighborhood of the schoolhouse west of Rockton, seated on a log, the Rev. Thomas Christie and the late Mr. John Armstrong discussed the matter of the best and most suitable place for a site on which to erect a church to accommodate a number of Presbyterian settlers scattered along the eastern side of Beverly, and in West Flamboro. And it is said they were agreed, that on account of the many roads converging to a point at the place where the schoolhouse, then occupied for service, was situated, with some other reasons not stated, that near there would be the best site for such a church, which in the end was carried out, and the site on which the wooden church was built was soon after secured.

James Kirkpatrick, of the township of West Flamboro, in the district of Gore, and province of Upper Canada, merchant, of the first part, conveyed according to law the parcel of land, on which the church was afterwards built, to Adam Thompson, Walter Robertson, John Muirhead and Robert Camp, of the townships of Flamboro and Beverly, in the aforesaid province and district, trustees for the Presbyterian meeting house of West Flamboro and Beverly in connection with the United Associate Secession Church of Scotland of the second part, Witnesseth that the said James Kirkpatrick for and in consideration of the sum of five shillings of lawful money of Upper Canada, paid to him by the aforesaid trustees of the second part, doth hereby bargain, sell, alienate, remise, release, convey and confirm unto the aforesaid trustees and their successors in office forever, all such piece or parcel of land, as aforesaid mentioned and described. The deed of which was executed on the 17th day of March, 1835, and registered in the office of the County of Halton on April 11, 1836. Number of memorial, 907; certified to by Thomas Racey, registrar.

The parcel of land was in the first concession of West Flamboro, fully described in the title deed. No time was lost in taking the necessary steps for the erection of a suitable meeting house on the above site. A subscription list



MR. AND MRS. ROBERT ECHLIN, Pioneers



MR. AND MRS. JOHN ARMSTRONG, Pioneers

was drawn up and circulated, of which the following is a sample copy:

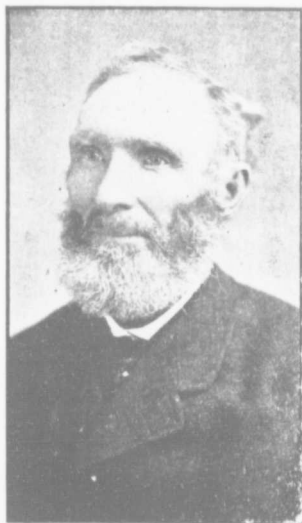
We, the undersigned, do promise to pay unto Adam Thompson, James Kirkpatrick, Robert Camp or Walter Robertson, trustees, the sum opposite our names for the purpose of building a meeting house for the newly erected congregation of Presbyterians of West Flamboro and Beverly in connection with the United Associate Synod of Scotland, the house to be built on lot number one in the first cession of West Flamboro. Dated Beverly, April 3, 1833.

The list was headed with £. S. D., and the subscriptions were most liberal considering the circumstances and struggles of the first settlers in those early days. Building material was laid on the ground, and the work of building was carried on with all convenient speed. When Mr. James Gray, a member of the first Session, arrived in Flamboro on the fourth of September, 1833, the frame of the building was up but not enclosed. It is related that an accident happened at the raising on account of the want of proper braces in the frame, and not being sufficiently stayed, the whole structure fell, with a man on top of it, though no one was hurt, and it had to be raised again. There is no account preserved as to the exact time when the church was completed and ready to be used for public worship, but it is thought to have been opened for divine service about the close of the year 1833. And having been opened and occupied it continued to be used until the present stone church was built and opened on February 17th, 1867, a period of some thirty-four years. The old wooden church was then taken down and removed, the site being divided into lots for a burying ground.

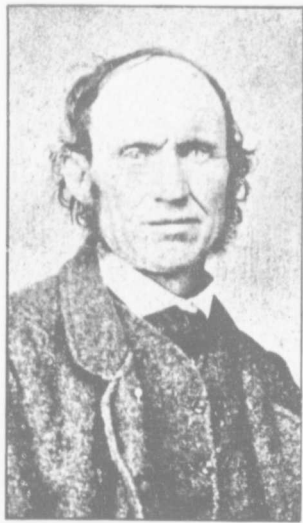
Copy of the original subscription list of the West Flamboro United Secession Church Presbyterian:

Subscribers' names and the sums to be applied for the erection of a meetinghouse in West Flamborough and Beverly, Aprile 2, 1833.

	Currency	£	S	D
Adam Thompson	15	0	0	
Robert Camp	12	10	0	
Walter Robertson	3	00	0	
John Muirhead	5	00	0	
Stephen Nissbet	7	12	0	
Hugh Jamison	3	0	0	
Adam Elliot	3	0	0	
John Bawtenhamer	3	0	0	
Matthew Camp	6	5	0	
Robert Camp, sen.	6	5	0	
Henry McKay	2	0	0	
George Hanes	3	0	0	
William Hamilton	3	0	0	
Hugh Nisbet	1	10	0	
Andrew Whitsell	1	10	0	
William Templer	2	10	0	
William Shannon	1	5	0	
Edward Pegg		15	0	
Owen Daly		5	0	
Morris Clutes		10	0	
Wesley Hanes		5	0	
John Cornell	1	5	0	
Enos Skinner		9	7½	
David Camp		6	3	
John Keagey, sen.	2	10	0	
David Camp, six bunches shingles	1	17	6	
David Betzner		10	0	
Samuel Betzner		10	0	
James Kirkpatrick	5	0	0	
Stephen Sharp		15	0	
James Cope		10	0	
William McKinley	2	0	0	
Samuel Cornell	2	0	0	
William Niville	1	15	0	
Nancy Niville	1	5	0	
Ann Niville		10	0	
Jonathan Bird	1	5	0	
Emery Bedford		10	0	



HUGH ARMSTRONG



WALTER ARMSTRONG



DANIEL WRAY, Sr.



CAPT. THOS. HARBOTTLE

U.S.O. LIBRARY

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

19

	Currency	£	S.	D.
Samuel Templer	1	0	0	
Paddy Reed		5	0	
Jacob Cope, sen.	10	0		
Timothy O'Keefe		5	0	
Isaac Sowrs		5	0	
Adam Cramer		5	0	
John Matthews	10	0		
Alex. Ferguson		5	0	
Peter Vanevery, in lumber	2	60	0	
David Vanevery, in lumber		5	0	
William Builer		10	0	
William Markle, sen.		5	0	
William Green		5	0	
Linton Green		5	0	
Hiram Hawkins		10	0	
W. Overfield		10	0	
J. Lesslie		10	0	
A Friend		5	0	
John Miller		15	0	
Daniel S. Nelson		5	0	
William McDonald		10	0	
James Cook		5	0	
Adam Almase		15	0	
James Gault		5	0	
John Robbs		10	0	
James Fields		5	0	
Henry Havell		10	0	
David Shannon		5	0	
John Bavid	1	5	0	
Henry Head	2	0	0	
John Hunt		10	0	
W. M. Caulson	1	0	0	
D. McKinzie	1	0	0	
William Robinson		10	0	
William Miller		10	0	
H. Simons	1	0	0	
Phillip Millian	1	0	0	
J. Brown		5	0	

	Currency	£	S.	D.
A. Steven	1	0	0	0
John Richie		5	0	0
James T. Morden		5	0	0
Andrew T. Kirby, lumber	1	3	0	0
Calton C. Smith		5	0	0
Labon Crandal		5	0	0
Done Griffin		5	0	0
Michel Turnbull		5	0	0
Andrew Vanevary		5	0	0
L. Schramhorn		5	0	0
James Elliot		5	0	0
James Dodd		5	0	0
James Tranner		10	0	0
Andrew Camp		7	6	0
George Chambers	2	10	0	0
Aaron Cornell		7	6	0
John Armstrong		5	0	0
Moses Cornell		5	0	0
George Edwards		5	0	0
John Guthrie and Griffith, each 10s.	1	0	0	0
James Walker and John Henry, each 5s.		10	0	0
John Vansickle	1	0	0	0
George Cumins 6s-3d, William Wilson 5s.		11	3	0
Peter Page 10s, James Clinton 10s.	1	0	0	0
Hew Chambers 5s, Thos. Hilton 5s.		10	0	0
James Lemon 10s, Samuel Lemon 10s	1	0	0	0
B. Howard	2	10	0	0
James Chambers 10s., David Chambers 10s....	1	0	0	0
Simon Munson		5	0	0
Robert Christie		0	0	0
James Baley £1, D. Armstrong 10s.	3	0	0	0
John Shanon £1, John Weaver 10s.	1	10	0	0

On the day following there appears another list of subscribers, as follows:

Beverly, April 3, 1833.

We, the undersigned, do promise to pay unto Adam Thompson, James Kirkpatrick, Robert Camp or Walter Robertson, Trustees, the sum opposite our names for the pur-



MRS. ADAM MARTIN



MRS. STEPHEN N. SBET



MRS. W. ROBERTSON

pose of building a meeting house for the newly erected congregation of Presbyterians of West Flamber and Beverly in connection with the United Associate Synod of Scotland, the house to be built on lot No. 1, in the first concession of West Flamboro.

	Currency	£	S	D
Aaron Cornell			7	6
John Armstrong			5	0
Moses Cornell			5	0
George Edwards			5	0
John Guthrie			10	0
Isaac Griffett or Moffett			10	0
James Walker			5	0
John Hindry			5	0
John Vansickle	1	0	0	
George Cummins			6	3
William Wilson			5	0
Doctor Page			10	0
James Clinton			10	0
Hewe Chambers			5	0
Thomas Wilson			5	0
James Lemon			10	0
Samuel Lemon			10	0
James Baley	1	0	0	
James Chambers			10	0
B. Howard	2	10	0	
David Chambers			10	0
Simon Mussen*			5	0
Thomas Racey			10	

*This name cannot be made out.

ANOTHER LIST.

We whose names are hereunto subscribed do promise and engage to pay to Adam Thompson or Robert Kemp whatever sum of money we may annex or cause to be annexed to our names for the purpose of defraying part of the debt already incurred in the erection of the meeting house and also to enable them to make contracts for painting and other repairs necessary to complete the said meeting house December 24, 1835.

The above subscriptions are to be paid on the first of March, 1836.

	£	S.	D.
Adam Thompson, paid	2	0	0
James Kirkpatrick, paid	2	0	0
Stephen Nisbet, paid	2	0	0
Andrew Purves, paid	1	0	0
James Robertson, paid	1	0	0
James McFarlane, paid		10	0
William Dickson, paid	1	0	0
Thomas Wallace		10	0
William Henderson, paid		15	0
James Henderson, paid		15	0
James Gray, paid	1	0	0
John Weaver, paid		10	0
Peter Somerville, paid		6	3
Hugh Bennet, paid		2	6
John Bauttinhamer	1	5	0
John Baird		7	0
William Armstrong, paid		15	0
Robert Murray, paid		5	0
Robert Kemp, paid	1	0	0
William Thompson, paid		5	0
Thomas Christie, paid	2	10	0
	4	15	0
Joseph Kitchen		5	0
Duncan McKinzie, paid		10	0
Charles Rochester		15	0
Thomas Gatis, paid in work	1	0	0
George Gatis, at the Galery		5	0
James B. Sterritte, paid	1	0	0
J. Lesstie, a keg of white lead			
David Rantol, paid		5	0
Robert Redpath		10	00

Here the list ends with a name that cannot be made out and the adding up has not been done.

West Flamboro, November 2, 1836.

At a meeting of the members of the United Secession congregation of Flamboro West, this day they resolved to open a subscription to finish the gallery of the meeting



ADAM THOMPSON, Pioneer



MRS. ADAM THOMPSON



WILLIAM THOMPSON, Pioneer



MRS. WM. THOMPSON



MR. & MRS ROBERT INKSETTER. Pioneers



MR. & MRS. WM. IRELAND. Pioneers

house and subscribed as under to be paid to Messrs. Adam Thompson and William Dickson, before the 1st of March, 1837, viz:

	£.	S.	D.
Adam Thompson	1	10	0
John Bawtinhimer	1	0	0
William Armstrong		10	0
James McFarline		10	0
William Dickson	1	0	0
John Murray		10	0
Thomas Dickson		15	0
Henry Rochester		10	0
Stephen Nisbet	1	0	0
Adam Elliot		10	0
William Forsyth		10	0
John Weaver		10	0
John Templer		10	0
Jacob Weaver		5	0
James Howell		10	0
Robert Wood		5	0
James Kirkpatrick	1	0	0
Malcolm Folster	1	0	0
From a Friend		5	0
James Reid		10	0
Edward Milward		5	0
James Purves		5	0
John Hall		5	0
Robert Camp	1	0	0
James Brown		5	0
William Henderson		10	0
James Henderson		10	0
James Robeson		5	0
George Henderson		5	0
	<hr/>		
	15	10	0
Remaining unpaid	3	5	0
	<hr/>		
	12	5	0
Balance of last subscription		6	4
	<hr/>		
	12	11	4

Cash paid	16	2	6			
Timber furnished	3	17	6			
				<hr/>		
	20	0		20	0	0
				<hr/>		
Balance due him		7	8	8		
Formerly due him		24	2	9		
Interest due him		3	0	0		
Due Robert Camp		4	0	0		
				<hr/>		
				38	11	5

The two following facts are the first records inserted in the minute book of the United Associate Session, Flamboro West:

MEMORANDUM FIRST.

The following fact is inserted by William Henderson in this minute book, the present Session Clerk, but not when the fact was done; but information is from James Gray, one of the number chosen by the congregation to fill the office of elder: That the first ordination and induction, to the eldership in the West Flamboro congregation was made on or about the eighteenth day of December, eighteen hundred and thirty-three. Names of the persons ordained and set apart to the office of ruling elders in said congregation, were: Adam Elliot, James Gray, Thomas Watson, John Freer and Walter Robertson.

(Signed) WILLIAM HENDERSON,

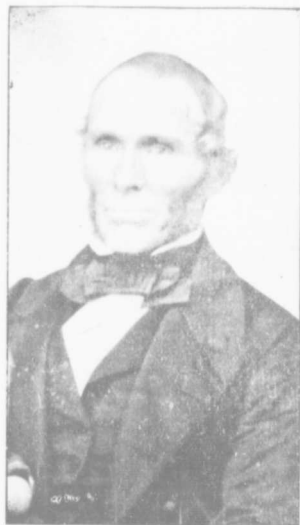
Session Clerk.

MEMORANDUM SECOND.

And from my own knowledge the second ordination and induction to the office of ruling elders of the congregation of West Flamboro was made on the first or second day week of June, eighteen hundred and thirty-seven, and chosen in the usual way by the congregation. The Session, after examining them, their acceptance to the call being first signified, approved of them as persons worthy and fit to be ordained to the office of the eldership. Names of the persons thus set apart to the office of elders were Stephen Nisbet, William Dickson, John Hall, William Henderson and James MacFar-



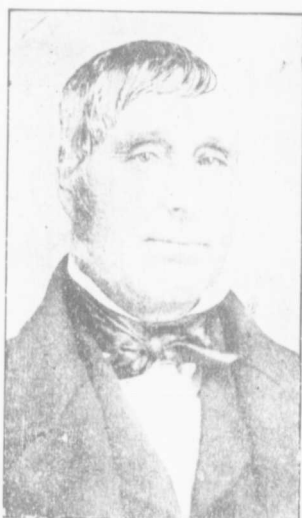
WALTER ROBERTSON (Elders in 1833)



JAMES GRAY



WILLIAM HENDERSON (Elders 1837)



STEPHEN NISBET

fane, who was elected Session Clerk and William Henderson was elected Presbytery elder to attend in June, 1837, at London a meeting of the Missionary Presbytery of the Canadas in connection with the United Associate Secession Church in Great Britain.

(Signed) WILLIAM HENDERSON,

Session Clerk.

According to the minute book the first meeting of Session, of which there are any minutes preserved, was held in Flamboro' West, August 20, 1837. As the first election of elders took place in December, 1833, there were doubtless several meetings of Session held between that date and June, 1837, when the second election of members was made, but we can find no trace of any minutes of meetings held. The second meeting of Session held, so far as the records indicate was on October 15, 1837, when it was resolved after mature deliberation that the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper be dispensed in this congregation on this day month, November 12th, 1837. This is the first record of the Lord's Supper having been observed. And the next date given of its observance is July 8th 1838. And then again in October 21st, 1838. From this time onward it was regularly observed in February, June and October, each year, and the Sacrament of Baptism was dispensed as often as occasion required.

Although there is no record in the minute book of the Lord's Supper having been observed in the congregation until November 12th, 1837, there is a communion roll dated April, 1833, with a list of names given of those who were at that date members belonging to the United Presbyterian congregation, which meets in West Flamboro and Dundas. The following names appear on the roll as having been members at the above date: Adam Thompson, Isabella Thompson, Robert Camp, Bethesda Camp, William Thompson, Jane Thompson, Adam Thompson, Hannah Thompson, Robert Thompson, Margaret Thompson, Elizabeth Thompson, Adam Martin, Elizabeth Martin, George Brown, Elizabeth Brown, Sarah McBride, Thomas Thompson, Margaret Jane Thompson, Margaret Martin, Joseph Camp, Nancy Camp, John Budge, James Budge, Cath ine Budge, Barbara Christie, Ann

Christie, David Christie, Barbara Christie, Robert Christie, Stephen Nisbet, Isabella Nisbet, Andrew Patrick, Isabela Patrick, Mary Robertson, Euphemia Christie, Joseph Boyle, Susana Boyle, William Forsyth, Janet Forsyth, William Fleming, Sarah Fleming, John Armstrong, Elizabeth Armstrong.

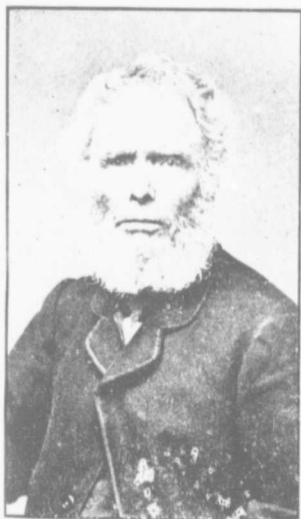
In view of the fact just stated of a communion roll having been formed in April, 1833, and of the election of elders in December, 1833, and other accounts of Mr. Christie having dispensed the Lord's Supper in other districts visited by him and Rev. William Proudfoot, in their missionary travels, there is good reason to believe that the Lord's Supper was dispensed in the Flamboro congregation several times during the period between the organization of the congregation in 1832, and November 12th, 1837.

ORGANIZATION OF THE MISSIONARY PRESBYTERY OF THE CANADAS IN DECEMBER, 1834.

In the winter of 1833 and 1834 the missionaries of the United Associate Secession Church who had come to Upper Canada met for consultation at the residence of Mr. Christie, in Flamborough. Among other matters they conferred on the expediency of organizing a Presbytery distinct from the existing organizations in the country. The ministers of the Church of Scotland had applied for and obtained Government grants for their support, acting in this matter in conformity with the principles and practice of the Established and Secession Churches in former times. But at this time the United Associate Secession Church had practically adopted what was called the "voluntary" principle, regarding it as at once unscriptural and inexpedient to receive aid from the State for the support of the Gospel Ministry. Holding the voluntary principle the brethren who met in Flamborough felt that they could not consistently unite with either of the Canadian synods, and therefore applied to the Secession Synod in Scotland for leave to form themselves into a separate Presbytery. Leave was granted by the Synod, and a Presbytery was organized on December 25, 1834, in the city of Toronto. The following are the minutes of its proceed-



MR. & MRS. JOSEPH BOYLE. Pioneers



MR. & MRS. THOS. NICHOL. Pioneers

ings on the first day of meeting, copied from the original record:

Toronto, Thursday, 25th December, 1834.

The missionaries of the United Associate Synod of Scotland in Canada met in the Presbyterian church, Hospital street. After sermon from Proverbs 20:1, by the Rev. Robert Thornton, Mr. Proudfoot read an Act of the United Associate Synod, dated Thursday, May 1st p.m., 1834, of the following tenor:

The missionaries from this Synod in Canada are hereby erected into a Presbytery under the name and designation of the Missionary Presbytery of the Canadas in connection with the United Associate Synod of the Secession Church in Scotland.

It was moved, seconded and agreed to nem. con. that the Rev. Thomas Christie be Moderator, which appointment he accepted and took the chair accordingly.

The Missionary Presbytery of the Canadas was then constituted by the Moderator.

It was moved, seconded and agreed to nem. con. that the Rev. William Proudfoot be clerk of the Presbytery. It was agreed to that the roll of the Presbytery be as follows: Wm. Proudfoot, Thomas Christie, Wm. Taylor, George Murray, Robert Thornton, James Skinner, John Cassie, William Fraser, Alexander McKenzie, all of whom were present with the exception of Mr. William Taylor and Mr. William Fraser.

Before proceeding to business the Presbytery unanimously agreed to spend the evening of the day in devotional exercises, that the Moderator begin constituting the Presbytery, and that he be followed by Mr. John Cassie and Mr. Alexander McKenzie.

Adjourned to meet at five o'clock p.m. Concluded with prayer.

WILLIAM PROUDFOOT,

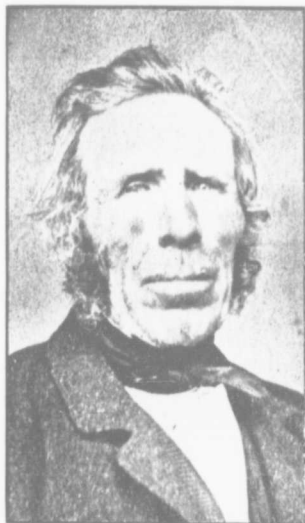
Presbytery Clerk.

The Missionary Presbytery of the Canadas met that evening according to resolution and spent the time in devotional exercises. Thereafter they adjourned to meet on Friday morning, December 26th, for the despatch of business, and then

again on Saturday, the 27th. The Rev. Mr. Jenkins being present, made application to be received with his congregation into the Synod, which was agreed, to take effect at the next meeting of Presbytery, 18th October, 1837. It was also proposed, and after full consideration resolved, **That in order** the more fully to promote the great object of the mission two members of Presbytery **shall be deputed** to visit all the churches and stations under the inspection of the Presbytery, to examine into their state, to give such advice as may be found needful, and to encourage and comfort and strengthen them." The deputies appointed were Messrs. Proudfoot and Christie, who were instructed to "proceed on their mission with all convenient speed."

No time was lost, nor was any labor spared by these brethren in discharging the duties thus imposed upon them. From their report sent home to the Secretary of Foreign Missions of the Synod of Scotland we learn that they commenced their tour of investigation on the 19th of January, 1835, and completed it about the 8th of March, having traveled through the best part of Upper Canada, seven hundred miles, partly in sleighs, partly in wagons and sometimes, when neither were to be had, on foot. This tour extended through London district, Stanley, Tuckersmith, on to Goderich, which they had visited in 1833 and organized a congregation, returning by way of Egmondville, then called Ross, and on to Guelph, Eramosa, Puslinch, Paisley, making a chain of churches, according to the report, all the way from Goderich to Dundas in those places which were already settled, and from these would spring up other churches as the road became lined with settlers. Concerning Mr. Christie's field of labor they thus write:

West Flamborough—The church at West Flamborough has been regularly formed and is one of those which are under the pastoral inspection of Mr. Christie. The original number was nineteen and eleven have since been added. There are many in the bounds who have certificates of church membership, but have not yet delivered them, intending to do so at next communion. Last year six families of Seceders settled in Ancaster who mean to connect themselves with this church, so



MR. & MRS. ROBERT PATTERSON, Pioneers



MR. & MRS. JOHN RUTHERFORD, Pioneers

that at next sacrament the number will be very considerably above sixty. It is not known that any family neglects family worship. There has been no known instance of immorality since the congregation was formed. All are living in peace and harmony. The attendance upon public worship is very regular. Sermon is given on every third Sabbath. There were no fellowship meetings in this church. We obtained their consent to commence two, and made all arrangements necessary for making a beginning on Sabbath first. The congregation has put up a very handsome frame meeting-house, forty feet by thirty-two. It is all seated and is very nearly finished. The expenses have been all paid with the exception of a small sum which is to remain as a debt upon the property for a few years. The house and the lot upon which it stands are regularly secured by deed to the church in connection with the Presbytery. It was the opinion of all that very much success cannot be expected while service is only once in three weeks; that this is not sufficient for gathering in those that are without and for edifying the Church. They believe that if they had more frequent service they would be able to do a great deal more for supporting a minister. As yet they have collected only \$90 for that object. Their opinion is that if a minister were stationed between Flamborough and Dundas his support might be provided for without any foreign assistance. We were persuaded that they had taken a just view of their case, and we promised to represent it to the Presbytery, at the same time recommended to them to make good use of what they have, explaining to them that a wish on their part to have service more frequently must be accompanied with a demonstration of their liberality, as it was not to be supposed that the Synod could do much more than they have done.

Dundas—A petition from sixteen persons in Dundas was previously to the meeting of Presbytery presented to Mr. Christie, entreating him to come and preach to them. Mr. Christie has made arrangements for preaching to them every third Sabbath, viz., on the afternoon of that Sabbath on which he officiates at West Flamboro. There are upwards of twelve persons in the neighbouring village of Hamilton who

belonged to the Secession when in Scotland, and who are desirous of attending sermon at Dundas till they see what can be done for their own village. Few of these persons were known to one another till we sought them out, and they expressed their surprise that there were so many. Hamilton, situated at the head of Lake Ontario, is a very thriving place; its population is upwards of 2,500. There is ample room for a minister of the Secession there, but we conceive that it would hardly be prudent to waste the funds of the Synod in attempting it, especially as there are many places more destitute. With a little nursing, however, it may ere long apply for regular supply, and may pay for it.

Dumfries—The church in this township is under the pastoral care of Mr. Christie and receives sermon once in three Sabbaths. The original number was twelve. There have been as many added since and a good number who have come within the bounds since the church was formed have signified their intention of joining the fellowship of the church at next communion. The attendance on Sabbath ranges between seventy and one hundred. Two elders have been ordained. Family worship, as far as is known to the ministers and elders, is observed in all families belonging to the church—all living in peace. No case has yet occurred requiring Sessional cognisance. They have built a very handsome frame meeting-house, forty feet by thirty-two. Before they began to build the property was secured to the Presbytery by deed. They agreed in May last to raise £30 as a stipend, but as they have had to build a meeting house they have not been able to fulfil their wishes in this respect. We explained to them the necessity of getting their house finished and their seats let as speedily as possible, and informed them that in the event of Flamboro and Dundas getting a minister they would receive a larger share, and would consequently be required to contribute a larger proportion. We commended the establishment of meetings for devotional exercises on those Sabbaths on which they are vacant, and made arrangements for having them begun on next Sabbath, to all which they unani- mously and very cheerfully agreed. This church is situated



MR. ANTHONY GEORGE, Sr., Pioneer.



MRS. ANTHONY GEORGE, Sr., Pioneer



MRS. AND. HUNTER



MR. JAS. MCCORMICK, Sr.

in a populous district, and gives good hopes of being a large one in a short time.

Little Scotland (in Beverly). This is a flourishing settlement of Scotch people, cut out of the heart of the bush like an oasis in the desert. When the church was formed there it consisted of eighteen persons. It is believed that double the number have signified their intention of becoming members at the next sacrament, at which time, with the addition of these and others who have certificates not yet presented, the number will be at least fifty. The average attendance is upwards of sixty. When they can get a house large enough the audience is as high as one hundred. There are two elders regularly ordained. It is believed that family worship is general. As the elders had not made particular enquiries they could not say that it is universal. They did not know of any instance in which it is not observed. There has occurred no case requiring the cognisance of the Session. There is a fellowship meeting on those Sabbaths in which they have no sermon. The members are all living in peace. The congregation have had several meetings about building a meeting-house. They have got an acre gratis, have resolved to build a house of logs, thirty feet by twenty-six, for defraying the expenses of which they have subscribed \$85, which will nearly suffice, as most of the work will be done by the people themselves. They have as yet done nothing towards raising a stipend for the ministers. They are perfectly sensible of their duty, and seem willing to discharge it, but they are just in that state in which settlers experience the greatest embarrassments. This congregation receives sermon every third Sabbath, and from the interest taken in public ordinances, and the consistent behaviour of members and others, it is believed that the blessing of God has rested upon the means of grace.

The foregoing is all that bears directly on the district immediately under the pastoral care of Mr. Christie, but their missionary tour extended on to Markham and Vaughan, where Mr. Jenkins was settled, and then to Hope, seventy miles east of Toronto, Port Hope, Perrytown, Whitby and Oshawa, where Rev. Mr. Thornton was in charge, then back

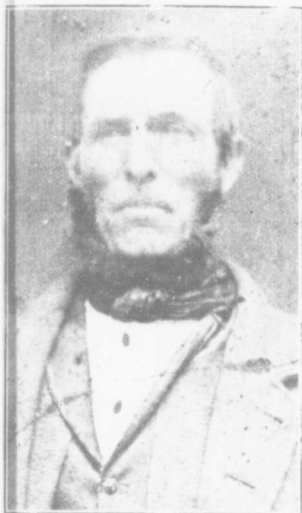
to Burford and Blenheim, under the pastoral care of Mr. Murray, and Paris on the Grand river, also under Mr. Murray's care, with West Dumfries, where Mr. Murray had a church, and Yarmouth and Southwold, under the superintendence of Mr. Skinner. The Presbytery contained thirteen churches regularly formed and fourteen preaching stations.

The report is signed,

WILLIAM PROUDFOOT
THOMAS CHRISTIE

The Missionary Presbytery of the Canadas, organized in December, 1834, increased in numbers till 1843, when it was sub-divided into the three Presbyteries of London, Flamborough and Toronto, and became a Synod, which assumed the name of the Missionary Synod of Canada in connection with the United Associate Secession Church in Scotland. The number of ministers in the Synod was eighteen. In 1844 the Missionary Presbytery of Canada East, on the roll of which were two ministers, was added to the Synod. In 1847, the year in which the Secession and Relief Synods of Scotland were united, the Missionary Synod of Canada assumed the name of the Synod of the United Presbyterian Church in Canada. This name it retained until 1861, when a union was formed between it and the (Free) Presbyterian Church of Canada. At that time there were on the roll of the Synod of the United Presbyterian Church sixty-eight ministers, besides two ministers, without charge and sixteen probationers. On the roll of the Presbyterian Church of Canada were one hundred and fifty-eight ministers, besides five ministers without charge and nine probationers. The Synod formed by this union assumed the name of the Synod of the Canada Presbyterian Church, which in 1870 was organized as the General Assembly of the Canada Presbyterian Church. Into this union in 1861, Rev. Thomas Christie declined to enter, and so remained out with his congregation until his death, which occurred on the 8th day of September, 1870.

During the missionary tour of Rev. Messrs. Christie and Proudfoot, their pulpits were supplied by Rev. Messrs. Fraser and MacKenzie. It was arranged by the Presbytery that the travelling expenses of this deputation should be defrayed



MR. JOHN STEWART, Pioneer.



MRS. JOHN STEWART, Pioneer.



MRS. A. KINNAIRD, Pioneer.



MRS. JOHN SCOTT, Pioneer,
from Denholm Hill, Roxburghshire, Scotland.

by special collections in the different districts visited.

At the meeting of the Missionary Presbytery of the Canadas held in Toronto, December 25th and 26th, 1834, a petition was presented signed by sixteen persons living in Dundas and belonging to the United Associate Secession Church asking to be formed into a congregation, under the care of the Presbytery, and to be supplied with preaching as regularly as possible. The Rev. Mr. Christie was authorized to carry out their wishes to take them under his pastoral care and to preach there as often as he could.

The second meeting of the newly organized Missionary Presbytery of the Canadas was held in the Flamboro West Church, and was constituted with the reading of scripture and prayer by the Rev. Thomas Christie, Moderator. The Rev. Mr. Murray was elected Moderator to take Mr. Christie's place. Mr. Christie presented to the Presbytery an application from a number of persons living in Paisley Block, Guelph Township, asking to be formed into a congregation under the care of the Presbytery and given pulpit supply. Mr. Christie was appointed to carry out their wishes.

Mr. Christie further reported an application from Paislinch for Gaelic and English preaching supply, which he was instructed to visit and enquire into the circumstances of the case, and report at a future meeting of Presbytery.

The Rev. Messrs. Fraser and MacKenzie gave in a report of their visit to Goderich, where Rev. Messrs. Proudfoot and Christie had planted a church in 1833, and had also revisited the place in the winter of 1835, previously referred to.

The third meeting of the Missionary Presbytery of the Canadas was held in West Flamboro church on February 8, 1837, and was constituted in the usual way by the retiring Moderator, Mr. Murray. The Rev. Robert Thornton, of Oshawa, was appointed Moderator in his place. A petition was presented to Presbytery signed by nine persons living in Nichol Township asking to be formed into a congregation under the care of the Presbytery, which Mr. Christie was appointed to do. This Mr. Christie did and reported at a future meeting held in London, June 21, 1837: That he had organized a congregation in the Township of Nichol (now

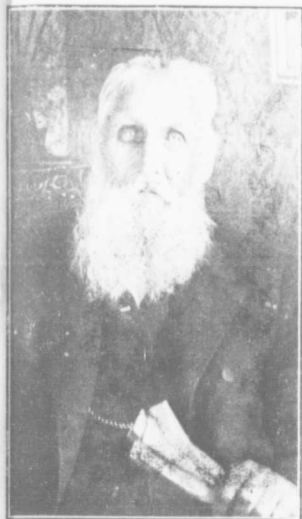
Knox church, Elora) and ordained elders and dispensed the Lord's Supper there. At the Presbytery meeting held in West Flamboro on February 8, 1837, it is further recorded that Mr. Christie stated that it was his wish to resign his care of the congregations of Dumfries and Beverly into the hands of the Presbytery, and to confine his labors to the West Flamboro congregation. The Presbytery having heard Mr. Christie's reasons for this step, agreed to relieve him of the charge of these churches, and to take them on the list of vacancies, and at the same time they accepted Mr. Christie's offer to minister to them until the expected supply of preachers should arrive.

The fourth meeting of the Missionary Presbytery of the Canadas was held in London on June 21, 1837. At this meeting a petition was presented to the Presbytery signed by thirty-two persons living in Puslinch Township, asking to be organized as a congregation under the care of this Presbytery. Mr. Christie was appointed to carry out their wishes according to the rules of the Church.

The fifth meeting of the Missionary Presbytery of the Canadas was held in the West Flamboro church on October 18, 1837. At this meeting Mr. Christie gave in the report of his visit to Puslinch, where he had organized, according to appointment, a congregation on the 21st day of July, 1837, and had ordained two elders, Messrs. Cockburn and Gillespie, and had also dispensed the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

There was also presented at this Presbytery a petition signed by thirty-seven persons living in Cuelph Township, asking to be formed into a congregation and taken under the care of the Presbytery.

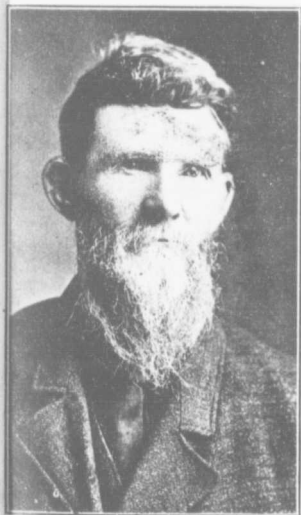
The sixth meeting of the Missionary Presbytery of the Canadas was held in the West Flamboro Church on the 11th day of February, 1838. Sederent, Rev. Messrs Proudfoot, Christie, Murray, Thornton, Skinner, Roy and Lawrence, Elder, Wm. Henderson. Mr. Christie reported that according to the appointment of Presbytery, he had organized thirty persons into a Christian Church in Paisley Block, elected two elders, Messrs. John Keith and John Mønderson.



MR. ADAM NISBET, Pioneer.



MRS. ADAM NISBET, Pioneer



MR. SAML. HUNTER, Manager



MR. THOS. PATRICK, Usher

The seventh meeting of the Missionary Presbytery of the Canadas was held in Toronto on June 20, 1838. At this Presbytery meeting a petition from St. George (Dumfries) was presented, asking for a preacher to be appointed to moderate in a call there. In accordance with this request Mr. Christie was appointed to moderate in a call there on July 1st, 1838. Mr. Christie was further appointed to visit Eramosa, in response to a petition from that congregation, to deal with the petitioners according to their request and receive them under the care of the Presbytery. Mr. Christie was also appointed to supply Beverly, August 15, and Mr. Lawrence, St. George, same date.

The eighth meeting of the Missionary Presbytery of the Canadas was held in West Flamboro church on the 21th day of October, 1838. Mr. Christie reported at this meeting: That he had moderated in a call at St. George on July 2nd, 1838 (the date being changed from July 1st to July 2nd) and stated that the call was in favor of Rev. James Roy. The call was signed by thirty members and five adherents. Commissioners appointed from St. George were Messrs. Robert Christie and John Dodds.

A petition from Beverly congregation was also read showing that they concurred in the call given by St. George to Mr. Roy, and praying that they might enjoy a share of the pastoral labors of Mr. Roy. There appeared as Commissioners from Beverly, Messrs. Thomas Watson, John Fairgrieve and Alexander Tunis.

Rev. Mr. Proudfoot reported at the same time his conduct in moderating in a call at Chatham on the 6th day of August, said call was addressed to Rev. James Roy. This call was lost in transmission from Chatham to Presbytery, but was acted upon as if on the table of the Presbytery.

There was also read a representation and petition from St. George, shewing that they consider their call entitled to preference over that from Chatham and praying the Presbytery to decide in terms of their representation, and that Mr. Roy be specially ordained amongst them. The Beverly commissioners, with the commissioners from St. George were

fully heard. After full consideration the Presbytery decided to prefer the call from St. George and Beverly to Rev. Mr. Roy, and appointed Mr. Christie to induct Mr. Roy to the pastoral charge of St. George on December 3rd, and to that of Beverly on December 5th, 1838.

Mr. Christie also reported at the same meeting of the Presbytery, held October 24th, that he had met with the petitioners from Eramosa, and had according to the prayer of their petition received that congregation and the Session under the care of the Presbytery.

It was further agreed to appoint Messrs. Christie, Murray and Roy to give what supply they could to Puslinch, Eramosa, Paisley Block and Nichol, until the third Sabbath of January, 1839.

Messrs. Christie and Roy reported having visited the congregations under care of Presbytery in the Gore District.

It might be of interest to note just here a few facts in connection with the early history of the Beverly portion of Mr. Christie's charge. The Beverly congregation was organized by Mr. Christie in 1833, with eighteen members. The log church was erected in 1835, and up to that time the congregation worshipped in barns during the summer, most frequently in the barn on lot No. 15, concession 7. In 1832 those who came to this neighborhood from Scotland in the same vessel put up a log building without the help of any animal. This building was large enough to cover them all, twenty-four in number, young and old. In this they all lived until they had their shanties put upon their own land. This building was also used as a place of worship until the erection of the log church. From 1835 until the early part of 1840 there was no pulpit. The worshippers sat on two-inch planks just as they came from the saw; no dressing whatever. In 1840 the building was lined, walls and ceiling with dressed lumber and a pulpit put in. It was also seated with plain dressed lumber seats, and thus made very comfortable. This building was used for worship until the stone church was built in 1848. Mr. Christie continued to minister to this congregation, as often as possible, until December 5th, 1838, when Rev. James Roy was ordained, inducted as pastor, as stated in a previous part of this historical sketch.



MISS MARY CHRISTIE



MISS EUPHEMA CHRISTIE

Daughters of Rev. T. Christie



MRS. THOMAS THOMPSON



MR. THOMAS THOMPSON

LIBRARY

Mr. Roy gave service every third Sa'bath until the early part of 1845, when he resigned his charge of Beverly, and took charge of Glenmorris.

The latter part of 1845 Beverly was supplied by probationers, which continued until Rev. John Porteous was called in 1847 and inducted in January, 1848.

Mr. Christie visited Beverly congregation for the last time when the stone church was opened in 1848. At the opening he made touching allusion to these early days of his ministrations there. He spoke of the days when they hardly had a roof to cover their heads, when in the midst of privations and difficulties they had worshipped from place to place in houses and in barns. But God had blessed their efforts and crowned their labors with success and now they had this substantial stone structure in which to worship the God of their fathers. It was an occasion calling for devout thankfulness to God on our part and for more entire devotion to His service, and on his own part a matter of praise and thanksgiving to God that His labors among them in those early days of privation and unceasing toil, had borne such visible and abundant fruit. That day was an earnest of what God would yet do for them. The retrospect in spite of all its burdens and toils, its trials and difficulties was food for grateful joy, the prospect was full of glad anticipation.

The foregoing facts in reference to the early days of Beverly congregation have been kindly furnished by Mr. Robert McQueen, who has been so long actively identified with the congregation there.

The ninth meeting of the Missionary Presbytery of the Canadas was held in the West Flamboro church on June 19, 13, 1839.

The tenth meeting of the Missionary Pres'ytery of the Canadas was held in the West Flamboro church on June 19, 1839.

The eleventh meeting of the Missionary Pres'ytery of the Canadas was held in the West Flamboro church on February 12th, 1840.

The twelfth meeting of the Missionary Presbytery of the Canadas was held in West Flamboro church on July 1, 1840.

At this meeting a petition was presented to Presbytery, signed by eleven persons living in Hamilton, and belonging to the West Flamboro church, asking to be disjoined from West Flamboro and to be erected into a separate congregation, under the care of the Presbytery. After due consideration it was agreed to let this petition lie on the table until next meeting of Presbytery. This congregation in Hamilton was a regular preaching station attached to the Flamboro charge, including eleven members.

The thirteenth meeting of the Missionary Presbytery of the Canadas was held in West Flamboro church on October 14, 1840. The petition from Hamilton was still laid over until next meeting of Presbytery.

The fourteenth meeting of the Missionary Presbytery of the Canadas, was held in the West Flamboro church on February 3rd, 1841. The petition from Hamilton was taken up and fully considered, when it was agreed to grant the prayer of the petition, and appoint Mr. Christie to intimate this decision to the congregation in Hamilton on the third Sabbath of February, 1841.

The fifteenth meeting of the Missionary Presbytery of the Canadas was held in the West Flamboro church on July 7, 1841.

The sixteenth meeting of the Missionary Presbytery of the Canadas was held in the West Flamboro church on October 6, 1841.

At this meeting there was presented a petition from the Hamilton congregation asking that the Rev. Mr. Dick be appointed to preach to them for a few Sabbaths.

The seventeenth meeting of the Missionary Presbytery of the Canadas was held in West Flamboro church on February 9, 1842. The Rev. Mr. Christie reported at this meeting that he had moderated in a call in St. Catharines on the Sabbath before the above meeting, i.e., February 2nd. The call was in favor of the Rev. John Porteous, and was signed by twenty-three church members and forty adherents, and later on by six more church members. Rev. Mr. Porteous was also called to West Dumfries.

The eighteenth meeting of the Missionary Presbytery of the Canadas was held in Toronto on July 6th, 1842. Mr. Christie reported at this meeting that he had moderated in a call in the Hamilton congregation on June 13, in favor of the Rev. Mr. Barrie of Eramosa and Nichol.

The nineteenth meeting of the Missionary Presbytery of the Canadas was held in the West Flamboro church on February 1, 1843.

The twentieth meeting of the Missionary Presbytery of the Canadas was held in Hamilton church on July 26th, 1843. It was at this meeting that it was agreed to organize a Synod. This was agreed to on July 27th, to be called "The Missionary Synod," of Canada, and to be divided into three Presbyteries, viz., London, Flamboro and Toronto. The second session of the Missionary Synod of Canada was held in Hamilton on May 22, 1844. At this meeting it was decided to continue Mr. Barrie in Eramosa and Nichol.

To the three Presbyteries before referred to there was added in 1844 the Presbytery of Canada East. On the roll of the four Presbyteries at this date were the names of twenty-two ministers. In May, 1847, was consummated a union between the Synods of the United Secession and Relief Churches in Scotland, the united bodies assuming the name of the United Presbyterian Church in Scotland. In consequence of this union the Synod in Canada changed its name into "The Synod of the United Presbyterian Church in Canada in connection with the United Presbyterian Church in Scotland." This name it retained till 1861, when it was united with the Free Church Synod. At that time it had sixty-eight settled ministers, two ministers without charge and sixteen probationers.

The Synod of the U.P. Church in Canada held its regular stated meetings in the United Secession Church, Hamilton (now called Central Church, Hamilton) and at its regular meeting held there on June 1, 1858, it was reported by the Flamboro Presbytery, that the Dundas portion of the Flamboro charge had been erected into a separate congregation on October 13, 1857, and to have a minister settled over them as soon as one could be secured. Dundas had been till now a preaching station attached to West Flamboro.

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Tabular view of the Missionary Presbytery of the Canadas, for 1839

	Year of Formation or Accession	No. at Formation or Accession			Number of Members on 31st December, 1839	Increase during the Year	Decrease during the Year	Baptisms	Number of Prayer Meetings	Number Attending	Number of Religious Classes	Number Attending	Aided on Church and Church Property	Debt	Raised for the support of the Gospel	Stipend Fund	Collected at Church Doors	Collected for Presbytery Fund							
		No.	at	Formation or Accession																					
Mr. Proudfoot	London (2)	1832	41	133	16	16	3	44	5	38	12	9	122	4	8	31	17	3	3	11	8	1	13	10	
	English Settlement	1832	33	62	6	6	1	12	2	45						21	16	1					15	4	
	Proof Line	1832	44	37	5	3					1	12				13	10						10	74	
Mr. Christie	W. Flamboro (1)	1833	19	141	22	14	3								70	60						3	15		
	Whitby	1833	9	159	6	5	16			2	20				320	57	7	6				1			
Mr. Thornton	Back Station (4)	1843	2																						
	Pickering	1844	2	48	6	4	6	2	35	2	38			25		12	10						3	17	0
Mr. Taylor	Montreal (5)	1843	74																						
Mr. Cassie	Port Hope (5)	1843	4																						
	Perrytown (5)	1843																							
Mr. Murray	Bienheim	1841	17	48		7	5	12	4		7	10	6	18	5	22	12	6	4	9	9		1	12	6
	W. Dumfries	1843	14	72		3	14		12					81	6	32	12	3	2	14	1				
Mr. Skinner	Paris	1843	12	38		2	1	8		25		8	11	7											
	Union Road	1843	22	34												14	15								
	Goderich	1843	10	59	12	3	1	10		1	5					11	10	7							
Mr. McKenzie	Stanley	1845	1	39						1	24			33	14	5	3	14	5	3	3	19	2	7	2
	Tucker Smith	1845	13	56							1	24			5	2	3				1	5		6	
	W. Gwillimbury	1845	16	39	1	3	5								20	20					2	5	11	1	3
Mr. Fraser	T. comsch	1845	2	28																					
	Fassa	1845	2	26																					
Mr. Jenkins	Richmond Hill	1847		68																					
Mr. Lawrence	Clarke	1845	33	59	4	1	2		4	9			86	12	5										
Mr. Roy	St. George (3)	1833	12	51										41	4	41	70	59							
	Beverly	1833	12	64	8	2	4	1							31	13	84	25							
Mr. Jennings	Toronto	1817	7	73											58	10									
Mr. Morrison	Madrid (5)	1838																							
	Nichol	1847	9	29	4	5	2									6	18								
Vacancies	E. Milbury	1847																							
	Emily and Ops (5)	1847																							
	Chatham	1848																							
	Eramossa	1848	31	39	8	5										7	5	8							
	Paisley Block	1848	30	44												5									
	Pushinch	1848	12	32												3	12	7							

(1) Attached to Flamboro are Dundas and Hamilton, Preaching Stations, the former contributed £8 8s 9d; the latter £10 18s. 6d.
 (2) Attached to London are four Preaching Stations.
 (3) Attached to St. George one Preaching Station.
 (4) Returns included in Whitby.
 (5) No return.

By Order of the Presbytery,
 W.M. PROUDFOOT,
 Presbytery Clerk.

U. P. U. LIBRARY

Tabular view of the Missionary Presbytery of the Canada, for 1838

	Year of Formation or Accession	No. at Formation or Accession	Number of Members on 1st December, 1838	Increase during the Year	Baptisms	Expended on Church and Church Property			Raided for the support of the Gospel			Stipend Paid			Collected at Church Doors			Collected for Presbytery Fund					
						£	s	d	£	s	d	£	s	d	£	s	d	£	s	d	£	s	d
London (1)	1828	41	117	7	8	11	122	4	8	18	20	8	2	2	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	
English Settlement	1832	33	30	1	1	12	35	7	0	8	40	8	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Port Line	1833	30	30	0	0	0	68	7	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
W. Flamboro (2)	1833	10	110	10	12	1	0	0	0	60	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Whitby	1833	20	132	2	12	1	9	7	11	237	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Black Station (3)	1834	25	48	6	4	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Pickering	1835	40	130	10	12	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Montreal (4)	1835	40	130	10	12	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Port Hope	1835	40	130	10	12	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Blenheim	1834	17	53	4	7	2	4	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
W. Dumfries	1834	34	28	3	10	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Paris	1835	14	35	1	4	1	25	7	6	88	15	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Pinson Road	1835	12	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Talbot Street	1835	22	60	8	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Georgetown	1835	16	50	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Stouffville	1835	14	35	1	10	1	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Tucker Smith	1835	13	49	3	8	1	18	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
W. Gwillimbury	1835	13	49	5	8	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Wessa	1835	2	24	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Texumseh	1835	2	24	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Richmond Hill	1837	100	143	7	12	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Clarke	1835	33	95	17	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
St. George	1833	12	43	5	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Beverly	1833	18	50	4	10	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Toronto	1837	9	46	3	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Nichol	1837	9	46	3	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
E. Tilbury	1837	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Emily and Ops	1837	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Chatham	1835	5	75	12	12	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Erasmus	1835	5	45	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Paisley Black	1835	3	41	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Pudinch	1835	3	41	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Madrid	1835	3	41	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Vacancies																							

(1) Attached to Flamboro' are Dundas and Hamilton, Preaching Stations, the latter £8 6s. 8d.
 (2) Returns included in Whitby.
 (3) No return
 (4) Attached are three Preaching Stations.
 (5) Part of Port Hope with a Meeting house for itself.

By Order of the Presbytery,
 WM. PROUDFOOT,
 Presbytery Clerk

UNIVERSITY

Having thus followed the missionary labors of Mr. Christie in the various districts visited and the different preaching stations planted, and the congregations organized, we now turn to the minutes of Session book, which dates from August 20th, 1837.

We find that on February 23rd, 1839, Mr. Walter Bain was inducted into the eldership in accordance with a resolution of the last meeting of the congregation and took his place as a member of Session, and at a subsequent meeting held on June 15th, he was appointed Presbytery elder for the next six months.

Under date of Flamboro West, October 5th, 1839, the following minute is recorded:

The Session unanimously agreed that it is necessary that there be one or two elders chosen in Hamilton for that quarter of the congregation, and that intimation of the same be given to the congregation here on the third Sabbath in October and to the members in Hamilton on the fourth Sabbath and that the election take place in Hamilton on the Tuesday evening after the fourth Sabbath in October.

It is further recorded: Flamboro West, November 3rd, 1839. The Session met this day and was constituted by the Moderator. Present: Adam Elliot, James Gray, Stephen Nisbet, William Dickson, William Henderson, Walter Bain and James McFarlane. The Moderator stated that according to appointment of Session at the last meeting he had preached in Hamilton in Mr. Thornton's schoolhouse and that after sermon the congregation were called upon to nominate persons for the office of eldership. John Thompson and William Lawson, who has both filled the office in Scotland, were nominated and unanimously elected. Messrs. Thornton and Lawson appeared and signified their willingness to resume their office. The Session unanimously agreed that their edict be served on the 10th inst, and if there be no lawful objections to their belief and life that they be inducted on the 24th inst.

It was also unanimously agreed that the second Sabbath in February, the third in June and the first in October, are

the fittest seasons for the o' s'ervation of the Lord's Supper in this congregation. Concluded with prayer.

JAMES McFARLANE, Session Clerk.

On February 8th, 1840, Stephen Nisbet was appointed to be Presbytery elder.

At Flamboro West, June 20, 1840, the Session met and was constituted by the Moderator. Present: William Lawson, Walter Bain, James Gray, Wm. Henderson, S. Nisbet, Wm. Dickson, Adam Elliott and James MacFarlane. The Session agreed to transmit to the Presbytery a petition from eleven members in Hamilton praying for a disjunction from this congregation and to be formed into a separate congregation.

At a meeting of Session held in Flamboro West, September 12th, 1841. It was resolved that the congregation should be called upon on the Saturday before the Sacrament (October 10th) that is October 9th, to elect three persons to the office of ruling elders, viz., one for the Dundas quarter, one for the Flamboro Road quarter, and one for the Brock Road quarter, and that intimations here be given after worship next Sabbath.

At a meeting held in Mr. Christie's house on Wednesday, October 20th, according to agreement at 12 o'clock noon. After sermon and prayer for the guidance of the spirit by Mr. Christie, the usual method of nomination being followed, Messrs. Adam Kerr, for the Dundas Quarter; James Baxter, for the Brock Road Quarter and William MacKinley for the Flamboro Quarter, were unanimously elected. The rules of procedure having been duly observed they were ordained and inducted in Flamboro church, November 14th, 1841, to the office of ruling elder by prayer and the imposition of hands.

At a meeting of Session held on October 8th, 1842, Jas. MacFarlane, owing to press of duties, resigned his position as Clerk of Session and Adam Kerr was appointed in his place.

In Flamboro West, February 11, 1843, the Session met and was constituted with prayer by the Moderator, all the

HAMILTON LIBRARY

members being present. Adam Kerr, who had been instructed by the Session to procure a set of communion cups, flagons and plates, presented the bill of the same, amounting to £3, 19s. 13d. As a collection had been made by the congregation for their purchase, the sum of £2. 5s. 10d., being the amount of the said collection, was already at their credit and the balance £1. 13s. 5d, the members of Session agree to pay in equal proportion, being three-quarters to to each and which was paid by Mr. Bain, Mr. Nisbet, Mr. Dickson, Mr. McKinley and Mr. Baxter.

West Flamboro, July 9, 1843.

The Session met and was opened by the Moderator with prayer, who also stated that at the last meeting of Presbytery, it was suggested to have a Missionary Society established in each of the congregations connected with the Secession Church, for the aid of weak congregations and other ways assisting the missionary fund, that it was necessary to state the same at the present meeting of Session so that the opinion of the Session could be stated to the Presbytery at their next meeting on the 21th inst. On considering the subject the Session came to the following resolution; Resolved that from the frequency of calls made upon the congregation by the committee of management to assist them in bringing up arrears due by the congregation that the formation of a missionary society in the congregation be deferred till after the meeting of Presbytery which was carried unanimously. Wm. MacKinley was appointed Presbytery Elder for the ensuing six months.

According to agreement of Session held March 24th, 1844 Walter Chisholm, having been duly elected by the congregation on March 17th, to the office of ruling elder for Dundas quarter, was set apart and inducted to that office on April 21st, at the close of the forenoon services in the usual way.

Meeting House, West Flamboro, Oct. 19, 1845.

The Session met and was constituted by the Moderator, Present, Wm. McKinley, James Baxter, Walter Chisholm, James McFarlane. The following resolution of a meeting of

the members of the congregation residing in Dundas was read:

(COPY.)

To the Rev. the Moderator and Members of the Session of the Secession Congregation, West Flamboro:

I beg to lay before you the following resolutions of a meeting of the members of the congregation residing in Dundas held on the evening of the 15th inst, in the Mechanics Institute room to consider the propriety and necessity of having a place of worship erected in Dundas in connection with the congregation. It was after full consideration unanimously agreed that the meeting approve of having a place of worship erected in Dundas, in connection with the congregation in West Flamboro and of taking steps to have the same carried into effect. It was stated that Dr. Hamilton had offered through Mr. Christie to sell a lot lying on the McAdamized road to the congregation which was worth £50 for £25 he giving the difference of £25 as his subscription. The meeting unanimously resolved to return their thanks to Dr. Hamilton for his kind and liberal offer and that they would accept the same and appoint Messrs. George, Colcleugh and Fairgrave to intimate this resolution to Dr. Hamilton and that as soon as the necessary arrangements for completing the purchase could be made a deed would be executed. It was unanimously agreed that the resolutions of the meeting be laid before the Session requesting them to call a meeting of the congregation to take this subject into consideration. Dated, Dundas, October 18, 1845.

(Signed) WALTER CHISHOLM,

Secretary.

After considering the matter of the foregoing resolutions the Session unanimously agreed to call a congregational meeting to be held on Wednesday, the 29th inst, at 12 o'clock and intimation thereof be made next Sabbath.

Closed with prayer.

(Signed) WALTER CHISHOLM,

Secretary W. F., per Wm. MacKinley.

At a meeting of Session on February 7, 1846, held in West Flamboro meeting house, the Session resolved to devote 12s. 6d. for Presbytery purposes for the past year. Also that a collection be made in aid of the Hamilton congregation on the last Sabbath in March or first in February and that intimation be given from the pulpit on the preceding Sabbath.

On June 12th, 1847 the Session agreed that fifteen shillings be paid from the collections for the Presbytery Clerk's salary. The Session also had regularly appointed one of its members every six months to attend meetings of Presbytery, but on and after June 12th they were appointed annually.

On February 12th, 1848, after sermon, the members of the congregation were served with new tickets of admission to the Lord's Supper. This practice of using tickets instead of tokens for admission to the Lord's Supper was continued till January 24th, 1850, when they were recalled and the practice discontinued, and it was also agreed that no person would be recognized as a member of the congregation after the recall of the tickets, on the ground that such a ticket may be in their possession.

At a meeting of Session held 13th October, 1849, they expressed deep regret for the loss of their late worthy brother William McKinley, whom it had pleased the Lord to remove by death from their number.

According to the resolution previously made, a stone church was erected in Dundas, and known as the "Blue Stone Church."

On September 8th, 1850, the Session agreed to express their deep regret for the loss of their late worthy brother, Adam Elliot, whom it had pleased the Lord to remove by death.

In West Flamboro, on December 8th, 1850, after sermon by the Moderator from Matthew 23 : 8, all the rules and forms of procedure on such occasions having been observed, the following persons were ordained and inducted and set apart to the office of ruling elders, by prayer and the impo-



DAVID CHRISTIE

(Elders)

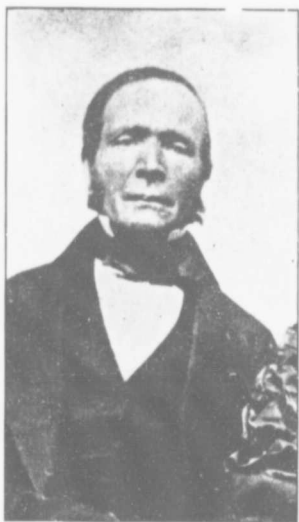


ADAM MARTIN



JAMES SPENCE

(Elders)



DAVID GIBSON

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sition of hands, and received the right hand of fellowship: Adam Martin, for Beverly district; David Christie, for Flamboro Quarter; William Fotheringham and John Thompson for Dundas Quarter, and James Spence for Ancaster Quarter.

At a meeting of the congregation held in Dundas on April 28th, 1855, the usual forms of procedure having been observed and prayer offered up for Divine guidance, and the vote on each being taken, the following were declared duly elected to the office of ruling elders, viz.: William Gill, Patrick Thornton, John Jardine and James McMicking. In the church in Dundas, on June 17th, 1855, they were ordained and inducted to the office of ruling elders in the usual way on such occasions. On June 12th, 1852, Mr. William Henderson was elected Session Clerk and continued as such till his death in 1887.

During Mr. Christie's pastoral care over Dundas congregation the communion was observed in April and December of each year, and the last time he dispensed it there as pastor, was on April 11th, 1875, for the reason already stated, viz., that the Dundas portion of the Flamboro charge was erected into a separate congregation on October 13, 1857, to have a settled minister of their own as soon as one could be secured. Thus one after another of the preaching stations under Mr. Christie's pastoral care, was disjoined and formed into separate congregations, until Mr. Christie was left in charge of Flamboro church alone after October 13, 1857.

Mr. Christie declined to enter into the union, which was consummated in 1861, between the Synod of the United Presbyterian Church in Canada of which he was minister, and the Free Presbyterian Church of Canada. The West Flamboro congregation remained loyal to their pastor as long as he lived. So far as the minutes of Session are concerned, there is no reference whatever to this union. It does not appear to ever have been submitted to the Session or congregation for their consideration, or to have been discussed in any shape or form, neither was any representative elder appointed between 1861 and 1870.

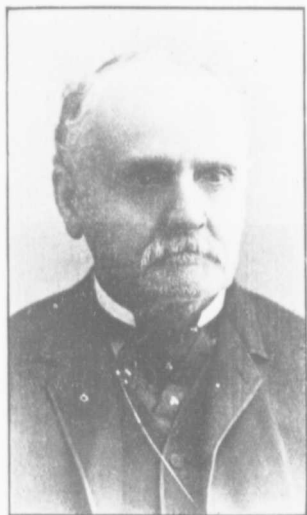
During the closing years of Mr. Christie's Ministry a new stone church was erected; of which the following account is preserved in the records of the church.

A meeting of the Congregation was held on April 26th, 1865, for the purpose of taking into consideration the propriety of building a new church. On Motion made by Mr. Robert Christie, seconded by Robert Thompson; William Henderson was elected Chairman, and opened the meeting with prayer. After full consideration of all the circumstances, it was moved by Mr. Robert Thompson, and seconded by Mr. William Nisbet, that the necessary steps be taken to build a new church. Said Church to be built on what was known as the one acre lot;—This lot belonged originally to the Estate of Barnabas Howard of the Township of Beverly, and was by Indenture made the twentieth of March 1856 Legally Conveyed to Thomas McCusker of the Township of West Flamboro in consideration of the sum of £150. of lawful money of Canada, duly paid, and properly registered on the 17th day of April 1856. This same property, was by Indenture made, the ninth day of November, 1857, conveyed by Thomas McCusker, to Robert Camp, Robert Thompson, Thomas Nichol and Stephen Nisbet, Trustees for the United Secession Presbyterian Church of Canada, in consideration of the sum of £125, lawful money of Canada, duly paid according to law, and legally registered in the Registry office for the County of Wentworth, the 11th day of November, 1857.

At the Congregational meeting already referred to held April 26, it was on motion duly made by Mr. William Thompson, and seconded by Mr. Thomas Thompson, agreed to appoint a building committee consisting of Robert Christie Robert Thompson, William Nisbet, David Gibson, and Wm. Henderson, and on motion by Robert Thompson, seconded by John Budge, a subscription list was opened, and the building committee empowered to call on members and adherents for their subscriptions which was faithfully carried out. Amounts varying from one dollar, up to two, three, four and five hundred dollars, were recorded.

On July 4th, 1865 the Committee met and appointed Robert Christie, Secretary-Treasurer. A. H. Hill, Architect

BUILDING COMMITTEE. NEW CHURCH



ROBERT CHRISTIE



ROBERT THOMPSON

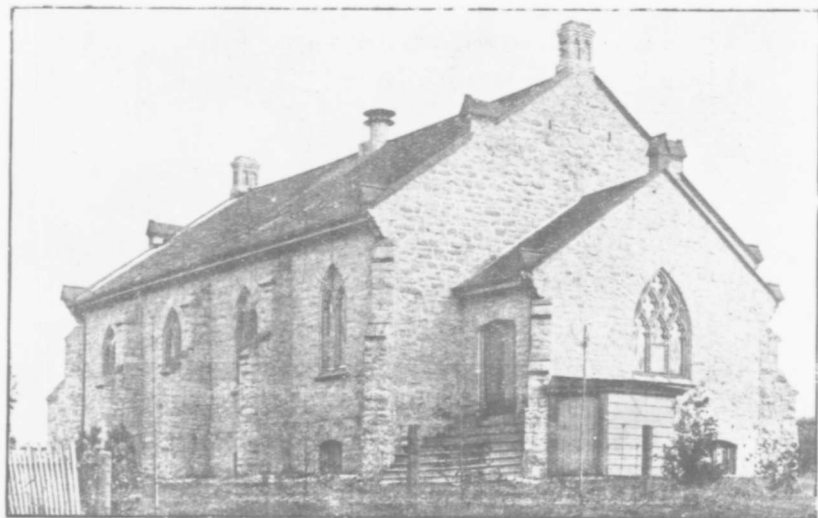


WILLIAM NISBET



WILLIAM HENDERSON

WILLIAM HENDERSON



WEST FLAMBORO CHURCH, ERRECTED 1866.

and Civil Engineer of Hamilton was employed to draw up the plans and specifications, said plans were received, considered and agreed to, tenders were called for to contract for quarrying stone and providing timber and lumber. The following estimate was made of the cost.

Cost of stone laid down.....	\$375.00
Cost of lumber	450.00
D. Nicholson's contract for mason work ...	1200.00
Own Hodges, contract for carpenter work ...	1325.00
Cost of shingles	60.00
Cost of lath	25.00
	<hr/>
	\$3605.00

All the above contracts were faithfully carried out but there remained a good deal more to be done, such as painting, removing earth, furnishings, advertising, cost of insurance, interest on loans, fencing etc., making a total of \$4,117.52, when the final audit was made by William Wood and T. S. Henderson on the 22nd day of March 1870, leaving a balance unpaid of \$291.15.

On February 17th 1867 the new church was opened. The Rev. Thomas Christie conducting the morning service, preaching from the text Ps. 132: 14. This is my rest for ever; here will I dwell; for I have desired it. In the afternoon a service was conducted by the Rev. Robert Torrance, D.D., of Guelph, at 3 o'clock. And in the evening the Rev. John McColl, of Dundas, preached. The church was filled at all the services. On the following Monday evening a tea meeting was held. The Rev. Thomas Christie was chairman. Speeches suitable for the occasion were made by Rev. John Duff, of Elora; Rev. Dr. Torrance, of Guelph, and Rev. Dr. Ormiston, of Hamilton. The amount realized was about \$200. At the close of the entertainment Dr. Ormiston was asked to take the chair, when he remarked that they would know in a few minutes the reason for his brief exaltation. Wm. Henderson then came forward and read an address to the pastor, Rev.

Thomas Christie, presenting him with a purse containing \$200.

The last meeting of Session at which Mr. Christie was present was held on June 12th, 1870, when the Lord's Supper was observed.

He remained pastor of the congregation for thirty-eight years, and continued in the active discharge of his duties till within a few days of his death, which occurred on the 8th of September, 1870, in the eighty-seventh year of his age, having been an ordained minister for fifty-three years, thirty-eight of which had been spent in West Flamboro. On Saturday, the 27th of August, he had written out a discourse for the following day, when he was seized with the sickness which within two weeks proved to be fatal. His mortal remains were carried to their last resting place amidst a large concourse of mourning friends. The spot in which they were deposited was that on which stood the pulpit of the old church, which in the course of years, had been replaced on an adjoining site by another of statelier structure and more enduring material. This venerable patriarch and faithful and devoted pastor was spared to witness the fruits of his abundant and self-denying labors in the growing prosperity of his own flock, and of several congregations around him, which he helped to establish, and his services to which are gratefully remembered.

The following minute appears in the Session records of September 10th, 1870.

"The Session met and was constituted with prayer, the Rev. Robert Torrance leading therein, at the request of the Rev. Mr. Inglis, Moderator pro-tem. Present: James Gray, Stephen Nisbet and William Henderson. When it was unanimously agreed that a congregational meeting be held on Tuesday, the 20th day of the present month. Also it was agreed that James Gray and William Henderson conjointly with the Rev. Robert Torrance be a committee to draft a



GEORGE WRAY, Manager



MRS GEORGE WRAY

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minute of Session expressive of the esteem in which the Session held their late venerable pastor and moderator, Mr. Thomas Christie."

Again on October 19th, the Session met and was constituted by the Rev. John Porteous, Moderator pro-tem, and by appointment of the Hamilton Presbytery. Present: James Gray, Stephen Nisbet, Adam Martin and William Henderson, when it was unanimously agreed that the dispensation of the Lord's Supper be observed in the congregation on the first Sabbath of November, say November 6th; also it was agreed that William Henderson be Presbytery elder until February, 1871. Further agreed that the Presbytery elder be now instructed to make application to the Hamilton Presbytery at their next meeting that the Flamboro West Session be allowed conjointly with said Presbytery in furnishing pulpit supply in the ministrations of the Word during the present vacancy. The committee appointed to draft a minute of Session expressive of the esteem held by said Session toward their late moderator, Mr. Thomas Christie reported, and said minute being read by the clerk was approved of and agreed to insert it in the minutes, and which is as follows: "That this Session would bow with dutiful resignation to the painful dispensation of Divine Providence which has bereaved them of their late pastor, Mr. Thomas Christie, who departed this life on the eighth day of September, one thousand eight hundred and seventy, at the ripe age of eighty-six years eleven months and twenty-two days. They would express their deep and heartfelt gratitude to God for the honor He put upon His servant in calling him to be one of the first three missionaries sent out to Canada by the United Associate Synod of the Secession Church in Scotland, when they entered upon the work of Foreign Missions; for the gifts and graces with which He endowed him and which eminently qualified him to be an able and faithful preacher of the unsearchable riches of Christ; for the length of time He spared him to work in the vineyard and to be pastor over this congregation, for the success with which He crowned his labors as a missionary as shown by the number

of churches he was instrumental in organizing, for the ability He gave him for the arduous labors he had to undergo, particularly in the early years of his missionary life and for the prosperity of his beloved Zion, which he was allowed to witness before he was called away to his rest. The Session would further record their high sense of the ministerial gifts, life and character of their late pastor, of the faithfulness with which he devoted himself to the work of preparation for the pulpit and with which he expounded and enforced the Word of God for the salvation of his hearers, proving himself to be a workman not needing to be ashamed rightly dividing the word of truth—a scribe well instructed to the kingdom and able to bring out of his treasures things new and old, speaking the things which become sound doctrine—of the deep interest he always took in the Spiritual welfare of the flock of which the Holy Ghost had made him an overseer being at all times ready, as he was well fitted to be, a counsellor of the young and a comforter of the aged—of the zeal with which he devoted himself so long as God was pleased to spare him in the possession of needful physical strength to visitation from house to house and of the kindly disposition he displayed in all his intercourse with the people of his charge. The Session would still further record their gratitude to God for the harmony that has prevailed among them as a Session during the long period they have been associated, under the moderatorship of their pastor, whose loss they now mourn, and for the urbanity which characterized him in all the business they were called to transact and with His approbation and welcome to the kingdom and they pray that they may be enabled by Divine grace to be faithful to the stewardship they have received of the Lord Jesus so that when they too are called away, they may meet glory which He has promised to His servants, and that the congregation may have poured out upon them the quickening and refreshing influences of the Holy Ghost, in connection with this sad dispensation, so as to profit by it, bearing the rod and Him that has appointed it. They would express their unfeigned sympathy with the widow in her affliction and their hope that God would supply all her need according to



WEST FLAMBORO MANSE

His riches in glory by Jesus Christ and enable her to realize the consolation of His gracious promises in the time of her sorrow, as also for the bereaved family who are not called to sorrow as those who have no hope. May the Father of Mercies and the God of all love and comfort make all grace to abound towards them and give them to enjoy in all their fulness the blessings He has engaged to bestow upon the seed of the righteous.



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CHAPTER III.

The close of Mr. Christie's pastorate was followed by a long vacancy of four years, during which time three calls were given.

On December 12th, 1870, the Rev. John Porteous moderated in a call in favor of Rev. Mr. Thornton, son of the Rev. Dr. Thornton, of Oshawa. The call was most hearty and unanimous, and a liberal salary was offered, but Mr. Thornton declined and soon after accepted a call to a church in Montreal, and from there he was called to a congregation in London, England, where he is still actively engaged in the Lord's work.

At a meeting of Session held March 12th, 1872, a remit on instrumental music was considered, when it was resolved unanimously that the use of instrumental music is not necessary as a help in the worship of God, and that it is inexpedient to introduce it into the congregations of the church. The remit anent the union of the four different Presbyterian bodies in the Dominion, was also considered at the same meeting, and approved of one, three and four sections and second amended as follows: "That the Westminster Confession of faith and the larger and shorter Catechisms shall form the subordinate standards of the Church, it being distinctly understood that nothing contained in aforesaid Confession or Catechisms regarding the power and duty of the Civil Magistrate, shall be held to sanction any principles or views inconsistent with full liberty of conscience in matters of religion. The session unanimously approved of other decisions on union.

For the first time, the Minutes of Session were submitted to the Presbytery of Hamilton on April 9th, 1872, and approved as on the whole correctly kept.

In the Session Records of Feb. 8th, 1873, the following minute appears in reference to the death of Stephen Nisbet which occurred on Feb. 3rd.

In consequence of the death of Stephen Nisbet for upwards of thirty-five years a member of the Kirk Session, and a member of the congregation since its formation in the year 1832. The Session hereby desires to record their expression of the sense of loss which they have sustained by his death. The deceased was always at his post, and was ready to assist his brethren with counsel both safe and profitable. He took a lively interest in the general prosperity of the congregation during his long connection with it and maintained a character consistent with his position, both as a member and as an Elder of the Church. The Session sympathize with the widow and family, commend them to the grace of God, and instruct their clerk to furnish the family with a copy of this minute.

On February 25th, 1873, the Rev. John Porteous again moderated in a call, this time given to the Rev. James Robertson of Norwich in the Paris Presbytery, the call was hearty and unanimous, and a strong effort was made to secure his services, but like the former was declined. Some time after Mr. Robertson was settled as the first pastor of Knox Church, Winnipeg, where he labored most faithfully and successfully till he was appointed by the General Assembly to the position of Superintendent of Missions in Manitoba and the Northwest, in which he remained till the end of his most fruitful ministry.

CHAPTER IV.

Pastorate of Rev. A. W. Benson.

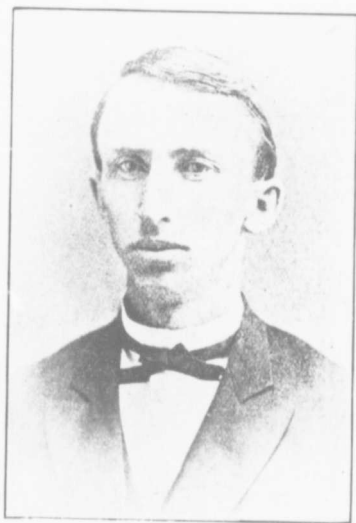
The third moderation took place on June 29th 1874, and was addressed to the Rev. A. W. Benson, and like the others was both hearty and unanimous, and was accepted by him. He was ordained and inducted on October 28th, 1874, when the Rev. John Porteous presided, the Rev. Mr. MacLean of Strabane preached, the Rev. Dr. Laing, of Dundas gave the charge to the minister, and the Rev. Mr. Dawson, of Beamsville addressed the Congregation.

Mr. Benson received a very warm welcome from the congregation, and entered upon his work as pastor with zeal and enthusiasm, preaching the first sermon on the text, Coll. 1:27-28, on Sabbath, Nov. 1st.

The following minute appears in the records of Feb. 13th, 1875.

On motion duly made, that in consequence of our long vacancy of over four years being now filled up, by a settled pastor, and, that the Rev. John Porteous having resigned the moderatorship of session. The session would desire to record their gratitude to the great head of the church, for the unanimity and cordiality that prevailed in the Session under the moderatorship of Mr. John Porteous, and that the thanks of the Flamboro West session be given to him, and instruct the clerk to send Mr. Porteous a copy of said minute.

In August 1875, according to the Session Records, Mr. and Mrs. Benson, on account of enfeebled health was granted leave of absence for three weeks, the Session supplying his pulpit during that period. Mr. Benson returned and continued in the faithful discharge of his duties till April 1876.



REV. AARON W. BENSON. Second Pastor.

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MRS. AARON W. BENSON.

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when he was again laid aside with severe illness, and felt constrained to tender his resignation which is dated April 23, 1856, Flamboro West. Rev. Dr. Laing, Moderator pro tem.

When it was unanimously agreed to insert in the Session records the following resolution of the Presbytery of Hamilton, viz: Within St. Paul's Church, Hamilton on the eleventh day of April, which day the Presbytery of Hamilton met and was constituted by Rev. A. Grant, Moderator. Inter Alia.

The clerk read a letter from Rev. A. W. Benson, dated Central Bridge, N.Y., April 3rd 1856 in which he tendered his resignation of the pastoral charge of West Flamboro, on account of continual ill health, without hope of recovery—Members of Presbytery gave information on the matter as far as they could. On motion of Mr. S. C. Fraser seconded by Mr. Craigie, it was unanimously resolved that the Presbytery with much sorrow and deep sympathy accept the resignation thus tendered at once and without the usual procedure. That Rev. Dr. Laing be appointed to preach in Flamboro 23rd inst., and declare the charge vacant, and to act as Moderator of Session during the vacancy. Also that the congregation be recommended to devise liberal things in regard to their late pastor in his present severe affliction, and that the clerk in informing Mr. Benson of the action now taken, be instructed to assure him and his lady of the deep sympathy felt for them by all the members of this court, their interest in their welfare, and confident hope that the Divine Master whom they love will sustain and comfort them in their dark hour of trial.

HISTORICAL SKETCH.

Aaron William Benson was born in Schoharie Co., N.Y., Feb. 23rd, 1843.—Received his early education in one of the district schools of the county; at the age of 18, he began teaching, and at the age of 22, received a "Teacher's Life Certificate," for the State of New York. He united with the

Reformed Church at East Cobleskill, N.Y., in 1859; entered Rutgers College, New Brunswick, N.J., in 1867, graduating from the same in 1871, and from the Theological Seminary in 1874. He received the degree of M.A., and was licensed to preach the Gospel by the classes of Schoharie, N.Y., May 27th, 1874. On June 5th, 1874, he was examined for Ordination at the General Assembly at Ottawa, Canada, by the Committee appointed for the "Reception of Ministers," two of whom were the Rev. Prof. Caven of Toronto, and the Rev. Prof. McVicar, of Montreal. The examination being satisfactorily sustained he was called to the Presbyterian Church, West Flamboro, Canada, June 29th, 1874, and ordained and installed by the Presbytery of Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, October 28th, 1874. He began his labors as pastor Nov. 1st, 1874, and continued the relation until April 23rd, 1879. His health failing, he was advised to try the climate of Minnesota, where after a year of rest, he recovered sufficiently to resume labor, and has since been active as a Home Missionary and Evangelist, organizing several new churches in the State, among which are three in the city of Minneapolis—reviving and establishing others and erecting and completing four new houses of worship. In connection with these labors he has also been engaged in journalism on the "North Western Presbyterian" and other periodicals. He is still actively at work, and has been supplying two congregations the past year.

During his brief sojourn at Flamboro 29 persons were received into the Church, nearly all on Confession of Faith. In his pastoral work his aim has been to give special attention to the aged, the sick and the young. Twelve young men have been led to the ministry through his influence and work, and many others have become prominent in religious activities. To him his sacred vocation was never a mere profession. It was a heavenly service. No labor was too great, no sacrifice too severe for the unselfish love he bore to the people of his charge.

Mr. Benson is by nature and training a theologian of the Old School, well versed in all theological lore, a lover of the Classics, finding his chief enjoyment in the study of the Greek New Testament with the corresponding lexicons and grammars. As a preacher, he has the elements that command attention, secure confidence and achieve success. His style is logical, persuasive and instructive. He abides close to the Great Commission, and seeks to reach the hearts of his hearers by first giving them a clear and intelligent comprehension of the truths embodied in the text, and then making a direct, pointed application to their circumstances and wants keeping constantly in view the conversion of sinners and the edification of the church. His ministry has accordingly been honored by the Master.

Mr. Benson was married in 1875 to Elizabeth Davis Smith, of Salem, North Carolina, a lady of high scholarly attainments and of deep piety, inheriting a missionary spirit from her parents and grandparents who were missionaries in the Moravian church. She has a brother in the ministry of the Presbyterian church, and her only surviving son is now a successful pastor in the Reformed Church at Lawersville, N.Y.



CHAPTER V.

Pastorate of the Rev. George Chrystal.

After a vacancy of four months a call was given to the Rev. George Chrystal of Silver Hill and Lyndock, which was accepted, and his induction took place on August 22, 1876, of which induction service the following account is given in a Dundas paper of that date. The Presbytery of Hamilton met on Tuesday, August 22nd, in the Church in West Flamboro, for the induction of the Rev. George Chrystal. The congregation was large and presented a most pleasing appearance. The sermon was preached from 1 Cor. 12:14, "I seek not yours, but you," by Rev. Mr. Clarke, of Welland. Mr. S. W. Fisher of Waterdown, presided, and put the questions; Dr. Laing, of Dundas, addressed the pastor, and Mr. Waits, of Waterdown, the people. The services were most interesting and appropriate. After the business had been transacted the ladies of the congregation entertained the whole company present at a sumptuous collation in the basement of the church. The manner in which this was conducted was highly creditable to all concerned. It was truly a love feast, a feast of welcome without the usual drawback of a charge for admission. After the repast a number of the congregation returned to the church when excellent addresses on a variety of practical matters were delivered by Messrs. Burson, Laing Fisher, Waits and Clarke.

During Mr. Chrystal's pastorate there were large accessions to the membership of the congregation and the different departments of church work were vigorously carried on. The Session records were regularly submitted to the Presbytery and approved as correctly kept.

On June 1st, 1877, after the sermon by the Rev. Mr. Smith, of Hamilton, the Session met and was constituted with prayer by the Moderator, Rev. George Chrystal, and



REV. GEORGE CHRYSAL, Third Pastor



MRS. GEORGE CHRYSAL.

when all the rules and forms of procedure in the ordination and induction of ruling elders having been observed Charles Patterson, Thomas Thompson, John Boyle, John Lawson, David Gibson and Samuel Adams were set apart to the office of ruling elders by prayer and they received the right hand of fellowship and took their seats as members of Session.

At a meeting of Session held April 9th, 1882, the following resolutions were unanimously passed relative to the death of Mr. David Gibson, an esteemed member of Session, who died on the eighth day of April, 1882: "Whereas, it has pleased Almighty God in Divine Wisdom to take from our midst one who was formerly a worthy member of this Session. Therefore, moved by William Henderson, seconded by John Lawson, and resolved: That in the deceased we recognize one who whilst in our midst honorably and faithfully discharged his duties and won the respect and esteem of every member of Session. That in his many noble qualities of head and heart he left us an example worthy of our imitation. That although we sincerely lament his loss to society, his family, this congregation and Session, it can be truly said of him "to die is gain," and we regard this dispensation of a kind Providence as a voice calling unto us, "be ye also ready". That while we mingle our tears with the bereaved widow and sorrowing relatives we also join with them in the good hope of meeting him in a better and happier world."

The following minute was adopted by the Session on May 21th, 1882:

"Whereas it has pleased God that death should again enter this Session and remove our venerable father and brother, Mr. James Gray, who died May 22nd, 1882, oldest officer in the eldership of this congregation, having been elected at its first meeting to elect elders in December, 1833, Resolved, that while we miss the presence and judicious counsel of the deceased, yet we submissively bow before the Di-

vine will and heed the repeated warning, "Be ye also ready." Resolved, that we sincerely sympathize with the bereaved family in the loss of a kind affectionate parent and wise counsellor."

On September 24th, 1882, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted relative to the death of Mr. Adam Martin, an esteemed elder who died on September 19, 1882, at the advanced age of eighty-one years. Whereas it hath pleased God that death should again (for the third time in five months) enter this Session and remove our venerable father and brother, Mr. Adam Martin. Resolved, that in the death of our venerable father and brother, we have lost a judicious and wise friend, an earnest Christian, and a father and brother beloved, yet we submissively bow to the Divine will and heed the repeated warning, "Be ye also ready." Resolved, that our sympathies are with the relatives and friends of our deceased father and brother, especially with his two daughters, his only surviving children."

At the July meeting of Presbytery, 1883, the Rev. Mr. Chrystal resigned his charge as pastor of the congregation, which was accepted, and Rev. Dr. Laing was appointed Moderator of Session, pro-tem.

The following obituary notice of the death of the Rev. George Chrystal appeared in the Beeton World, Beeton, Ontario, Thursday, July 16th, 1908: "Beeton has this week been called upon to mourn one of its best known and most highly respected citizens in the person of Rev. George Chrystal, who died at his home on Centre street on Tuesday afternoon, July 28th, 1908, after an illness of about two weeks. Deceased was a native of Scotland. He was born at Coldingham, in Berwickshire, in 1837, and was, therefore, in his 72nd year at the time of his death. He received his early training in the parish school there, following it up with a business course, to qualify for a clerkship in a dry goods house. The glowing reports which an elder brother sent home from Canada, to which he had lately come, how-



CHAS. PATTERSON, Elder



THOMAS THOMFSON, Elder



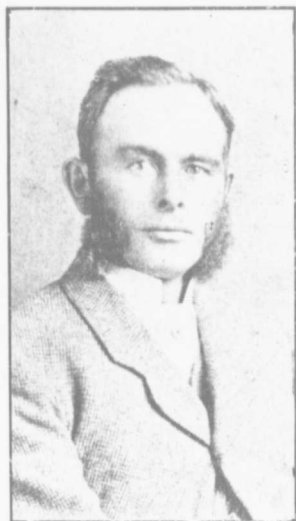
JOHN LAWSON, Elder



JOHN BOYLE, Elder



REV. ALEX. NICHOL.



JOHN WEIR, Manager



MRS. JOHN WEIR. Soloist.

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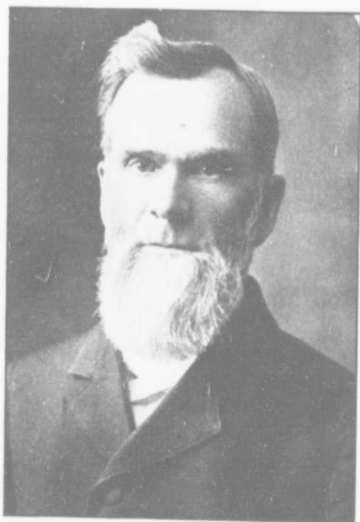
ever determined Mr Crystal to follow him, when he was about eighteen years of age. After the lapse of a year or more he moved to Iowa, in company with his brother, where they bought land. All the while influences were at work in his heart and conscience leading him to sell his interest in the farm and to turn his steps towards the ministry of the gospel. He re-entered school and college and spent a year teaching in Pennsylvania, afterwards moving to Canada, where he for some time followed the same vocation. Meanwhile he was diligently pursuing his classical studies, and in 1863 he matriculated in Toronto University. In view of the great need of ministers and at the urgent pleading of a number of well known divines he then entered on his theological studies in Knox College, graduating in 1869. His first charge was Silver Hill and Lyndock, in the Presbytery of Hamilton, where he labored for six years. On the union of these churches he received and accepted a call to West Flamboro, and was inducted there on August 22nd, 1876, where he remained till July 1883, when he tendered his resignation, and in 1884 was called to Avonton and Carlingford, in the Stratford Presbytery. He resigned this charge and moved to Stratford in 1890, where he resided until 1892. It was in this year he came to Beeton and received the appointment of Division Court Clerk, which position he filled until called by the hand of death. During his sixteen years' residence in this place Rev. Mr. Chrystal made a very large number of friends by his many acts of kindness. He was possessed of a true Christian character, which exemplified itself on every occasion where the truest sense of manhood was called for. By his death many residents of this section will feel keenly the loss of a friend whom time and circumstances failed to weaken in his ties of friendship. Especially will he be missed by the inmates of the House of Industry. Since the establishment of this public institution at Beeton the subject of this sketch had voluntarily given his services towards ad-

vancing the spiritual welfare of the inmates. Nearly every Sabbath he was to be found expounding the gospel truths at the house services and as a result of his untiring efforts in this direction the path of many an inmate has been made to appear brighter than ever before. At the Christmas season Rev. Mr. Chrystal never failed to do his utmost in manifesting a spirit of good-will toward his more unfortunate brothers, and when one of them was laid low by the hand of death he gratuitously performed the last sad rites of burial. He leaves to mourn his loss a wife and one son, Dr. Chrystal, of Carstairs, Alberta, to whom the sympathy of the community is extended.

The funeral was held on Wednesday afternoon. Rev. Mr. Sharpe, of Alliston, conducted a short service at the house after which the remains were conveyed to the Union cemetery, where they were interred with **Masonic** honors.



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REV. S. W. FISHER, Fourth Pastor.



MRS. S. W. FISHER.

CHAPTER VI.

Pastorate of the Rev. S. W. Fisher, B.A.

After a vacancy of five months a hearty and unanimous call was given to the Rev. S. W. Fisher, B.A., of Knox Church, Elora, Presbytery of Guelph, which call was accepted by Mr. Fisher, and the induction services were held on December 6th, 1883. The Rev. John Laing, D.D., interim moderator, presided, and preached the induction sermon. The Rev. George Burson, of Knox church, St. Catharines, delivered the charge to the minister, and the Rev. Wm. Robertson, B.A., of Waterdown, addressed the congregation. At the close of which services Mr. Fisher was introduced to the congregation by Rev. Dr. Laing and received a hearty welcome.

At a meeting of Session held on February 4th, 1885, the moderator of Session reported that a vote had been taken in the congregation on the use of the Presbyterian Hymnal, at the regular diets of worship and that the result was a large majority in favor of its use. Whereupon it was moved by John Lawson and seconded by John Boyle: That according to vote of congregation the Presbyterian Hymnal be used in the service of praise, and that the moderator be instructed to intimate this decision of the Session to the congregation next Sabbath, which was agreed to by a majority.

At a meeting of Session held March 17th, 1886, it was moved by William Henderson and seconded by John Boyle: That considering the size of the congregation, the extensive field of labor within its bounds and the amount of work properly developing upon the eldership, it is deemed advisable to have an addition of not less than six elders to the Session, which was unanimously carried. In accordance therewith the Session took the necessary steps to have this decision carried out in the usual way and the result of the votes cast announced, when it was found that Messrs. Thomas Gibson,

William Clark, Andrew Black, Dundas Kirnaird, James George and T. S. Henderson were elected. The first five after due consideration signified their acceptance of the office, but Mr. T. S. Henderson felt constrained to decline for the present. The regular forms and procedure having been observed those accepting office were ordained and inducted on Sabbath October 3rd, 1888.

At a meeting of the session held Feb. 17th 1887, the congregation was divided into districts according to the number of the elders, for the better carrying on the work of the congregation.

At its meeting on November 2nd, 1887, the session appointed the moderator, with John Lawson and Thomas Thompson, a committee to draw up a suitable minute anent the death of Mr. William Henderson, a member of session, of which the following is a copy.

That this Session would bow in humble submission to the Divine Providence that has removed from us by death an honored and revered member of Session in the person of the late William Henderson, who departed this life on the seventeenth day of October 1887, in the seventy-seventh year of his age, and they desire now to put on record their high and heart felt appreciation of the long continued and faithful service which he was enabled to render this congregation of which he was a member from the year 1835, and in June 1837, he was elected to the office of the eldership in which capacity he continued to serve the congregation most diligently and efficiently till he was called to give an account of his Stewardship on high. In 1852 he was unanimously appointed clerk of Session which duties he performed most faithfully till the last. For many years he engaged in Sabbath School work to the great profit of all concerned. He was treasurer of the congregation for many years, as also of their Missionary contributions. In all of which offices he was most devoted and painstaking, sparing neither time nor trouble in advocating the cause of Christ. As a Christian he

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was a man of more than ordinary intelligence with extensive scriptural knowledge and a deep insight into its spiritual meaning. He was possessed of strong and most decided religious convictions, with unwavering adherence to the Cardinal Doctrines of revealed truth and an earnest purpose in life made him a power for good both in the congregation and in the community in which he lived. While mourning his loss we sorrow not as those who have no hope, for we know that in Heaven he has a better and more enduring substance and through his long life of consecration though dead, he yet speaketh. The Session desire to express sympathy with his two sons and their families in their trying bereavement, and would hereby commend them to God who is able to build them up and give them an inheritance among them who are sanctified.

At the same meeting of Session Mr. Andrew Black was on motion duly made and seconded appointed Session clerk in the place of the late Mr. William Henderson, and Mr. John Boyle was elected representative elder. It was also agreed to appoint Mr. William Henderson, son of the late Mr. Henderson to take charge of the Presbyterian records, and to act as treasurer of the Missionary Monies and Ordinary Revenues of the congregation until the regular congregational meeting which he consented to do. On February 7th, 1888, William Clark was appointed Superintendent of district Sabbath School to be held in Miss Weir's home, and James Clark his son Secretary-Treasurer, which continued during the winter months. Mr. Andrew Black, having resigned the position of clerk of Session, February 7th 1893, William Clark was appointed to take his place and continued to fill this office till October 2nd, 1896, when he resigned because of his removal to Dundas and Mr. John Boyle was appointed to take his place.

At a meeting of Session held January 29th, 1892, the question of using an organ at the regular diets of worship in the church, was brought before the Session by a petition signed by sixty communicants. After due consideration, it

was decided to submit the question to a vote of the congregation in the regular way, requiring a two-third vote of the membership of the congregation. The votes were counted at the meeting of session held on March 8th, when it was found that 150 had voted in favor of the organ and 17 against, this giving a two-third vote for the organ. Whereupon it was unanimously agreed to grant the prayer of the petition and that the Moderator and Clerk inform the Chairman of the Board of Managers of this decision and ask him to take the necessary steps to place a suitable organ in the church.

At the next meeting of session held May 11th, Miss Sarah Boyle was appointed organist of the regular church service, and Mrs. Kelly was appointed organist of the Sabbath School, and Mr. William Wood was asked to continue as leader of the choir, which offer he most respectfully declined, but Miss Boyle and Mrs. Kelly accepted their appointments.

On February 7th 1896, Miss Boyle resigned as organist of congregation, and Mrs. Kelly resigned as organist of Sabbath School. Both were accepted, and the following minute in reference thereto engrossed in the records. The Session in accepting the resignations of Mrs. Kelly and Miss Boyle as organist of Sabbath School and Church express our thanks and appreciation of their valuable services and regret the parting with Mrs. Kelly on her leaving for other parts and would follow her with our earnest prayers for her future welfare. We would also place on record our sincere appreciation of Miss Boyle's services as organist of the congregation which were given so willingly, not accepting any remuneration.

Miss Ruth Clark was appointed organist of Sabbath School, and Miss Bella Inksetter was appointed organist of the congregation. Both accepted their appointments.

At the session meeting held October 1st 1897, the use of the Presbyterian Book of Praise, in Public Worship, was

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taken up and after full consideration, it was unanimously agreed, that the Presbyterian Book of Praise approved by the General Assembly be used in the public worship of the congregation and that they be asked to provide themselves with copies of the same as soon as convenient.

At the meeting of Session held May 20th, 1898, the death of Mr. John Boyle was referred to, and the Moderator and Mr. John Lawson were appointed to prepare a minute in reference thereto, which is as follows:

The Session unanimously agreed to the following minute in reference to the death of Mr. John Boyle, a member of Session, who was ordained and inducted to the office of ruling elder, June 1st, 1877, and was called away to his reward May 16th, 1898, aged 59 years.

Whereas it hath pleased the Great Head of the Church to remove by death Mr. John Boyle, a member of Session for nearly twenty-one years. The session desire to place on record the high esteem in which he was held, and hereby bear testimony to his diligence and faithfulness as a member of Session and clerk of the same for several years, to his consistent and exemplary Christian life, constant and regular in attendance on Divine worship, an affectionate husband, a true and faithful friend. In his sudden call, we would hear the voice of the Master saying, "Be ye also ready, for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of Man cometh." We would express deep sympathy with the sorrowing wife and relatives in their sad bereavement. At the same meeting Mr. John Lawson was appointed Clerk of Session in the place of Mr. Boyle.

On the 4th day of January, 1901, the Session received the resignation of Miss Bella In'setter to take effect after January 6th. It was moved and seconded and agreed that the resignation be accepted, and that the Session express sympathy with her in her present impaired state of health, and sincerely hope that the contemplated trip may prove highly

beneficial, and that she may be completely restored.

It was further agreed on motion duly made and seconded, That Miss Jennie Hugill be appointed organist to commence with the second Sabbath of January, and that Miss Martha Clark be invited to act as assistant organist. Both accepted

The Session record of January 10, 1902, contains the following minute: The Session would hereby record the fact that the Flamboro Presbyterian church, having been damaged by fire on Saturday night, December 21st, 1901, no service was held in the church on Sabbath, 22nd December, but it was arranged during the week ensuing to meet for public worship each Lord's Day in the Methodist church, Salem, and the West Flamboro Methodist church alternately until such times as the church building should be repaired.

With characteristic zeal and diligence the Managers set to work at once to make all necessary arrangements for repairing the church building. A subscription list was circulated and the response was most liberal and together with the insurance sufficient was raised to reseat the church with the latest improved seats, and to paint and renovate it. On March 23rd, the church was re-opened by the Rev. Dr. Fletcher, of Hamilton, preaching morning and evening to large congregations who appreciated very much his excellent sermons.

On the thirteenth of March the following minute is recorded. The Session of the West Flamboro Presbyterian church desire to express their sincere gratitude to the pastor and trustees of the West Flamboro and Salem Methodist congregations for the use of their respective churches for public worship during the repairs of their own church, and sincerely thank them for all their kindness and sympathy manifested towards us during the three months we were privileged to meet in their churches, and we earnestly pray that the Divine blessing may rest upon them and their pastor. A copy of this minute to be sent to Rev. Mr. Smith, their pastor.

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T. S. HENDERSON, Secretary-Treasurer



ADAM THOMPSON, Manager



DAVID BELL, Auditor

At this meeting on September 9th, 1904, the Session appointed a committee to prepare a minute in reference to the death of Mr. Thomas Thompson, a member of Session, who was ordained and inducted to the office of Ruling Elder June 1st, 1877, and was called to his reward July 23, 1904, aged eighty-five years and five months.

Whereas it has pleased the Great Head of the Church to remove by death Mr. Thomas Thompson, a worthy member of Session for more than twenty-seven years, the Session desire to place on record the high esteem in which he was held, and to bear testimony to his diligence and faithfulness as a member of Session to his consistent and exemplary Christian life, most regular in attendance on Divine worship, an affectionate husband and father, and a true friend. In his call from our midst we are again reminded of our Master's words, "Be ye also ready for in such an hour as ye think not the Master cometh." We would express our deep sympathy with the sorrowing wife and family in their great bereavement.

At the meeting of Session on December 2nd, 1904, the Moderator reported that Miss Jennie Hugill had handed in her resignation as organist, on account of recent illness. She felt unable for all the duties required. The Session accepted her resignation, expressing sympathy with Miss Hugill, and hopes she may soon be restored to health again.

After full consideration it was unanimously agreed to offer Mrs. Spera the position of organist, the matter of salary to be referred to the Managers at their next meeting. Mrs. Spera accepted this offer, and Sarah Fisher to remain as assistant organist.

At the same meeting of Session it was decided to ask the congregation for an election of four Elders, and that the election be by ballot according to the third method in the book of forms. And that Sabbath, January 1, 1905, be the time fixed for the return of the ballots. On the 10th day of

January the ballots were examined when it was found that Messrs. T. S. Henderson, James Harper, David Betzner and I. B. Barclay had been elected to the office of the eldership, all of whom accepted the office and were ordained and inducted on Sabbath, January 29th, 1905.

It was further agreed at the above meeting to have the Session over the united charge of West Flamboro and Lynden divided. The elders in each congregation to constitute the Session in that congregation to which they belonged, and that the Presbytery be asked to sanction this decision, which was granted by Presbytery and reported to the Session at its meeting on May 5th, 1905, at which meeting it was also agreed to use communion cards instead of tokens as there was not sufficient of the latter for the increased membership of the congregation.

Mr. T. S. Henderson was instructed to send for the required number of cards, and the districts of the congregation were arranged according to the number of elders.

At the meeting of Session February 8th, 1906, a committee consisting of the Moderator, with James Harper and I. B. Barclay, were appointed to draw up a suitable minute anent the death of Mr. John Lawson, which was agreed to as follows:

Mr. John Lawson, sen., a member of Session, who was inducted to the office of the eldership June 1, 1877, and called to his reward February 3rd, 1905, aged seventy-one. Whereas it has pleased the Great Head of the Church to remove by death Mr. John Lawson, a worthy member of Session for nearly twenty-nine years, the Session desire to place on record the high esteem in which he was held to bear testimony to his diligence and faithfulness as a member of Session, to his consistent and exemplary Christian life, most regular in attendance on Divine service, an affectionate husband and father, and a true friend. In his call from our midst to his final reward we would hear our Master's call



DAVID BETZNER, Elder



WM. CLARK, Elder



I. B. BARCLAY, Elder



ANDREW BLACK, Elder



WEST FLAMBORO SESSION

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to increased diligence and faithfulness we would express our deep sympathy with the family in their sad bereavement, and commend them to the God of all Grace who is able to build them up and give them an inheritance among them who are sanctified.

Mr. I. B. Barclay was appointed Clerk of Session in place of the late Mr. Lawson on February 8th, 1906, and on January 11th, 1907, Mr. T. S. Henderson was appointed to the position of Clerk of Session instead of Mr. Barclay, who had resigned as he was moving to Ancaster.

The Session agreed to the following minute in reference to the death of Mr. David Betzner, a member of Session, who was inducted to the office of ruling elder on January 29th, 1905, and was called to his reward on the 31st of May, 1906, aged seventy years. Whereas it has pleased the Great Head of the Church to remove by death Mr. David Betzner, a faithful member of Session for one year and four months, and had served as an elder, in the Session of Chalmers' church, Elora, for many years. The Session hereby place on record the high esteem in which he was held, and to testify to his diligence and faithfulness as a member of Session to his consistent and exemplary Christian life, most regular in attendance on the services of the church, an affectionate husband and father, a true friend. In his sudden call we are thereby reminded that we too may soon have to render an account of our stewardship on High. We would express our deep sympathy with the family in their sad bereavement, and commend them to the God of all Grace in this hour of great sorrow.

REV. S. W. FISHER, B. A.

The Rev. S. W. Fisher, B.A., was born in St. Marys, Guisborough county, Nova Scotia. While quite young his parents moved to the county of York, Ontario, living on Dundas street, near Toronto, where his father died some five years after. His mother, with the family moved soon after

to the county of Huron, settling on a farm near Clinton. His early training was obtained at the public school, Clinton high school and Normal school, Toronto. Obtaining a first-class certificate, he engaged in teaching for some four years. Blessed with Godly parents he was early taught to memorize the Scriptures and the shorter Catechism, which made a deep and lasting impression on his heart and conscience, together with the memory of a father's dying benediction and prayer, "I commend him to God and the Word of His Grace, which is able to build him up, and to give him an inheritance among all them who are sanctified." It was while teaching that he was led in a very special way to decide to consecrate himself to the Christian ministry. Under the direction and influence of the late Rev. A. D. McDonald, D. D., then of Clinton, he began a course of study with that end in view, receiving private tuition from Mr. Turnbull, principal of the Clinton High School. Going to Toronto he pursued the course prescribed by the Church at the University and Knox College, graduating from the latter institution in 1874, including a session at Princeton Seminary, New Jersey. During the summer months he engaged in mission work under the Home Mission Committee of the Church, laboring in the Presbyteries of Huron, Guelph and Toronto, spending the last summer in College Street Church, Toronto, from which he was called to Knox church, Waterdown, and Burlington, and was ordained and inducted in the church at Waterdown on the 27th day of October, 1874.

He remained pastor of the united charge till July, 1877, when he resigned Waterdown, to allow Knox church and St. Andrew's to unite and form one congregation. He remained pastor of Burlington till November, 1879. While pastor of Waterdown and Burlington a new church was built in Burlington costing some \$7000, and was paid for soon after it was opened. In November, 1879, he was called to Knox church, Etora, and inducted there, December 3rd. In the Spring of 1883 he was laid aside with a severe illness of several months, and so compelled to seek an easier field of work. In November, 1883, he resigned Knox Church, Etora,



WEST FLAMBORO CONGREGATION

and the same day received a call to West Flamboro, where he was inducted on the 6th day of December. Here he preached once each Sabi.ath for the first year, holding district prayer meetings on the Sabbath afternoon or evening. In January, 1885, he commenced services in Lynden and Rockton on alternate Sabbaths, continuing the same till May 1888, when the Rockton service was closed and a congregation organized in Lynden, where a new church was built in 1889, and opened in February, 1890, with a small debt which was soon paid off. This book contains a full account of the remaining years of Mr. Fisher's ministerial work.



CHAPTER VII.

Departments of Church Work.

The Session—Twenty-six elders were elected to the office of the eldership during the pastorate of the Rev. Thomas Christie, as follows:

First Election—Adam Elliott, James Gray, Thomas Watson, John Freer and Walter Robertson. These were ordained and inducted as ruling elders in the West Flamboro congregation on December 18th, 1833.

Second Election—Stephen Nisbet, William Dickson, John Hall, William Henderson and James MacFarlane. These were ordained and inducted on the first or second week of January, 1837, in the West Flamboro congregation. William Henderson was appointed representative elder and James MacFarlane, Session Clerk.

Third Election—Walter Bain, ordained and inducted as elder in the West Flamboro congregation on February 23rd, 1839.

Fourth Election—John Thompson and William Lawson, who had been ordained as elders in Scotland, were inducted as elders in the congregation in Hamilton, November 23rd, 1839.

Fifth Election—Adam Kerr, for Dundas quarter; William McKinley, for Flamboro quarter, and James Baxter for Brock road district. These were ordained and inducted in West Flamboro church, November 14th, 1841.

Sixth Election—Walter Chisholm, ordained and inducted in Dundas church, April 21st, 1841.

Seventh Election—Adam Martin, Beverly district; David Christie, Flamboro district; William Fotheringham and John Thompson, for Dundas, and James Spence, for Ancaster, were ordained and inducted in West Flamboro church on December 8th, 1850.

Eighth Election—Patrick Thornton, William Gill, James McMicking and John Jardine were ordained and inducted in the Dundas church, June 17th, 1855.

Ninth Election—Charles Patterson, Thomas Thompson, John Boyle, John Lawson, Samuel Adams and David Gibson were ordained and inducted in the West Flamboro church, June 1st, 1877, during the pastorate of the Rev. George Chrystal.

Tenth Election—Thomas Gibson, William Clark, Andrew Black, Dundas Kinnaid and James George were ordained and inducted October 3rd, 1886, in the West Flamboro church during the pastorate of the Rev. S. W. Fisher.

Eleventh Election—T. S. Henderson, James Harper, David Betzner and I. B. Barclay. The latter two had been ordained elsewhere. The ordination and induction took place in the Flamboro church, January 29th, 1905.

Twelfth Election and First in Lynden—R. A. Thompson, John M. Robb and John Baird were ordained and inducted in Lynden church, December 17th, 1893, and Andrew Black was transferred from West Flamboro to Lynden church.

Thirteenth Election and Second in Lynden—Edward Johnston, H. C. Morrison, and W. H. Baird were ordained and inducted in the Lynden church, March 13th, 1903.

The present Session in West Flamboro are Thomas Gibson, Dundas Kinnaid, James George, T. S. Henderson, James Harper and Samuel Adams. T. S. Henderson, Clerk of Session. Rev. S. W. Fisher, Moderator of Session.

The present Session in Lynden are Andrew Black, R. A. Thompson, Edward Johnston, H. C. Morrison and William H. Baird. Andrew Black, Clerk of Session.

There was one Session over the united charge of West Flamboro and Lynden until May 5th, 1905, when the necessary steps having been taken and the sanction of Presbytery being granted, the Session was divided, the elders in each congregation to constitute the Session of said congregation as above indicated. The representative elder to be elected alternately each year from the respective Sessions.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is observed in each congregation, three times each year, January, May and September. The congregations are divided into districts and the elders are expected to distribute the communion cards in their several districts previous to each communion. The Session meets in connection with each communion, and at other times as the work of the congregation requires.

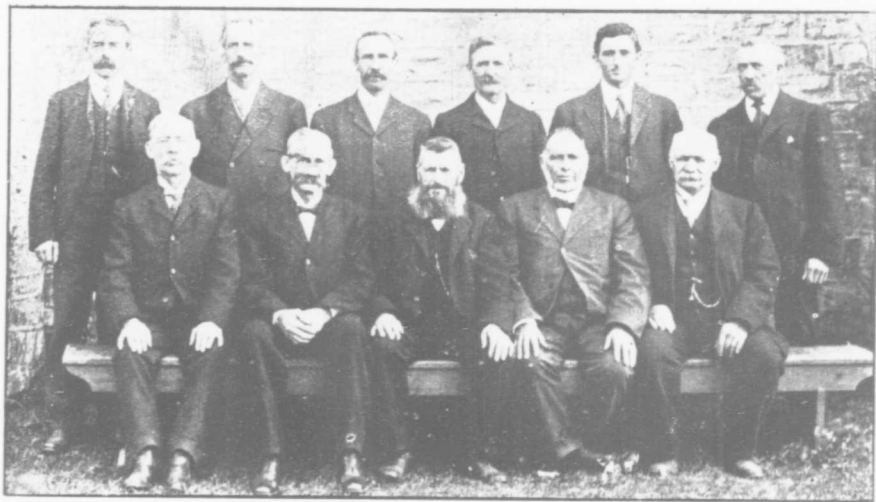
The minutes of the General Assembly are regularly distributed among the members of Session, that each one may have an opportunity of acquainting themselves with the different departments of work carried on by the Church at home and abroad.

It will thus be seen that twenty-six elders were elected during the pastorate of Rev. Thomas Christie; none during the pastorate of Rev. A. W. Benson; six during the pastorate of the Rev. George Chrystal, and during the present pastorate nine have been elected in West Flamboro church and six in Lynden. Forty-seven in all have served in the office of the eldership, during the seventy-five years of the church's existence.

BOARD OF MANAGERS.

The Board of Managers consist of twelve members, four of whom retire annually, but are eligible for re-election. The present members for 1908 are as follows: James George,

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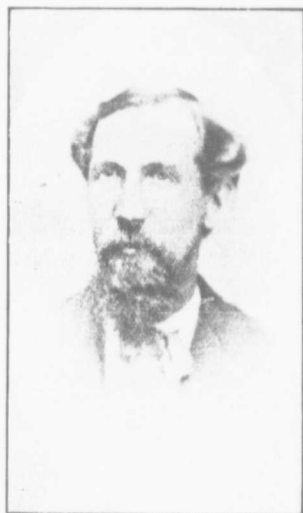
WEST FLAMBORO MANAGERS.



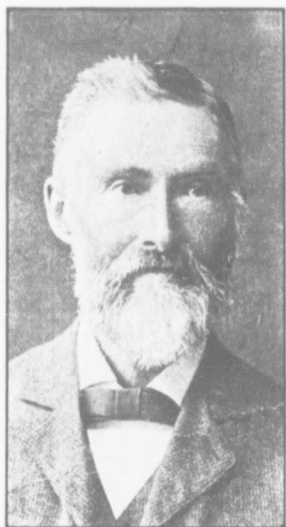
WILLIAM HENDERSON, Jr., Sec-Treas.



JOHN IRELAND, Manager



JAMES DAVIDSON, Precentor.



WILLIAM WOOD, Precentor

John Ireland, Thomas Thompson, Daniel Wray, Adam Patterson, John Lawson, Frank Hanes, Robert A. Inksetter, Dundas Kinnaird, James Donald, T. S. Henderson.

John Lawson, Chairman.

David Bell and Daniel Wray, Auditors.

Robert A. Inksetter and Thomas Gibson, Receivers.

Ushers—South aisle, James Harper and Wm. J. Henderson; North aisle, J. F. Thompson and John Lawson.

To take up collections—South aisle, Adam Patterson, Daniel Wray and Norman Stewart; North aisle, R. A. Inksetter, John Lawson and Thomas Thompson.

To Allocate Seats, R. A. Inksetter, John Lawson and T. S. Henderson.

Trustees—Adam Thompson, T. S. Henderson, James George.

Caretaker—George H. Rayner.

Formerly the revenue was raised by pew rent and open collections, but at the beginning of the present pastorate a change was made to the voluntary system, giving weekly, and with open collections. According to annual report for 1887 it has been the most prosperous for many years.

Wm. Henderson, Sr. served as Secretary and Treasurer of the congregation for many years until October 14, 1887, when he passed away to his reward, and was succeeded by his son William Henderson, who continued to fill the position with diligence and faithfulness till his death on the 12th day of October, 1902, when his brother, Mr. T. S. Henderson was appointed to take his place as Secretary and Treasurer. The Service of praise.

The Service of Praise was from the first in this Congregation, conducted by a precentor, with a desk in front of the pulpit. The following have occupied this position: Geo. Henderson, Alexander Mackie, William Kynoth, Samuel

Barton, James Skea, James Davidson, David McMillan, William Wood Sr. This method was conducted until May 1892, when the question of using an organ at the regular diets of public worship was brought before the Session on Jan. 29th, 1892, a petition signed by sixty communicants. After full consideration it was decided to submit this matter to a vote of the congregation in the regular way, according to the book of forms. The ballots having been returned at the time specified were counted by the Session on March 8th, when it was found that 150 communicants had voted in favor of the use of an organ in public worship, and 17 communicants against, thus giving a vote of 2-3 rds of the congregation in favor of the organ. Whereupon the Session unanimously agreed to grant the prayer of the petition, and further instruct the Moderator and Clerk of Session to inform the chairman of the Board of Managers of this decision, and ask him with the managers to take the necessary steps to place a suitable organ in the church.

At a meeting of Session held May 11th, 1892, Miss Sarah Boyle was appointed organist of the regular Church service, and Mrs. Kelly was appointed organist of the Sabbath School and William Wood Sr., was asked to continue as leader of the choir. Miss Boyle accepted the position of organist of the congregation, and Mrs. Kelly accepted that of the Sabbath School; but Mr. Wood asked to be released as leader of the choir, which at his urgent request was agreed to, and he was heartily commended for his long and faithful conduct of the service of praise. Mrs. Kelly and Miss Boyle continued to fill their respective positions as organists, until February 7th, 1896, when both tendered their resignations, for satisfactory reasons, which were accepted, and the following minute was adopted in reference thereto:

"The Session in accepting the resignation of Mrs. Kelly and Miss Boyle, as organist of Sabbath school and congregation respectively, express our sincere thanks and appreciation of their valuable services and regret the parting with

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MISS SARAH BOYLE, Organist



MRS. SPERA, Organist



MRS. MILLER, (nee Miss Jean Hugill) Organist



MISS ANNIE ROBINSON, Soloist



WEST FLAMBORO CHOIR.

Mrs. Kelly on her leaving for other parts and would follow her with our earnest prayers for her future welfare. We would also place on record our sincere appreciation of Miss Boyle's services as organist of the congregation, which were given so willingly and gratuitously, not accepting any remuneration."

At a meeting of Session held February 7th, 1896, Miss Ruth Clark was appointed organist of the Sabbath school, and Miss Isabell Inkssetter was appointed organist of the congregation. Both accepted the appointments of Session.

Miss Isabell Inkssetter continued as organist until January 4th, 1901, when she resigned her position, which was accepted, and the Session expressed sympathy with her in her present impaired state of health, and sincerely hoped that the contemplated trip may prove highly beneficial, and that she may be completely restored.

At the same meeting Miss Jean Hugill was appointed organist to commence with the second Sabbath in January, which was accepted, and Miss Martha Clark was appointed her assistant.

Miss Jean Hugill continued until December 2nd, 1904, when she tendered her resignation, as on account of recent illness she felt unable to attend to all the duties required. The Session accepted the resignation and expressed sympathy with Miss Hugill in her illness, hoping she may be soon restored to health again.

At the same meeting it was unanimously agreed to appoint Mrs. Spera as organist, with Miss Sarah D. M. Fisher as assistant instead of Miss Martha Clark, resigned, Miss Fisher to be organist of the Sabbath school also. Both accepted their respective appointments.

At a meeting of Session held November 25th, 1908, the Clerk reported that Mrs. Spera had handed in her resignation as organist of the congregation, because of intended

absence from home, which the Session accepted with expressions of appreciation of her faithfulness in the discharge of all the duties required. On motion duly made and seconded Miss Sarah D. M. Fisher was appointed organist in Mrs. Spira's place, with Miss Marion Gibson as assistant organist. Both accepted their appointments.

At a meeting of Session held October 1, 1897, after full consideration, it was unanimously agreed: That the Presbyterian Book of Praise, approved by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, be adopted and used in the regular diets of worship, and that the congregation be requested to provide themselves with copies of the same as soon as convenient, and the Moderator was asked to inform the congregation of this decision. The singing of the Amen was agreed to on January 28th, 1898.

THE SABBATH SCHOOLS OF THE CONGREGATION.

The West Flamboro Sabbath school dates as far back as the church. It has been faithfully conducted by the different pastors as superintendents, with an efficient staff of faithful teachers. It has been a continual source of strength and stability to the congregation, in which the children and young people have grown up and entered into the full membership of the church.

The pastor is the superintendent at present, and teacher of the Bible Class, with Miss Helen Gibson, Miss Edna Harper and Miss Sarah D. M. Fisher as teachers, and William Gibson Secretary and Treasurer. The Sabbath school meets from 10 to 11 a.m.

In February, 1889, Mrs. James Steele, then of Greenville, commenced a Bible Class in her home there. The attendance increased and early in March the same year a Sabbath school was organized in the Greenville schoolhouse. Mr. Harvey who was then in the employ of Mr. James Steele, was the first superintendent, and was assisted

by Mrs. Steele, Miss Maggie Clark, Miss Annie Morrison, Miss Leckie, as regular teachers. Soon after its organization the Town Hall at Bullock's Corners was rented and the Sabbath school met there, where it has continued ever since, under the care of the Session of the West Flamboro Presbyterian church. There are many others who assisted in the work of the school at different times in the early history of the school, whose names have not been secured. When Mr. Harvey left Greensville Mrs. Steele took charge of the school as superintendent until she moved to Dundas in October, 1891, when Miss Morrison was appointed superintendent in her place.

The average attendance during these early years was about thirty. Alexander Davidson, son of Mr. Anthony Davidson, was most diligent and faithful in having the Town Hall in order for the school, cutting the wood on Saturdays and in many other ways helping on the good work. Last year Mr. Davidson passed away to his reward, after a long illness, which was borne with a true Christian spirit. Miss Morrison occupied the position of superintendent for many years till she moved away. Miss Morrison also acted as secretary and treasurer, all of which positions she filled with great diligence and faithfulness, never sparing herself in anything that would be for the good of the school, respected and esteemed by all associated with her in the work.

Among those who have rendered efficient service in the school at different times may be mentioned Mrs. S. W. Fisher, Mr. I. B. Barclay, Mr. James Harper, Miss Margaret Clark, Miss Sarah Clark, Mrs. Stinson, with the present officers, Mrs. Hilbert, superintendent; Miss Martha Clark, secretary and treasurer, and Mrs. (Dr.) Lawson as teachers. This Sabbath school has done good and valuable work all these years, not only being self-supporting, but also giving to Missions, and to benevolent objects. It has been a great blessing in the district.

On the seventeenth day of April, 1887, a Sabbath school was organized at Atkin's Corner. The building occupied belonged to Mr. George Atkins, Rockton, and was rented from him for several years, and subsequently bought by William Wood, Sr., Samuel Hunter, William Henderson and T. S. Henderson for the sum of \$300, each receiving a joint deed. It was held by them for Sunday school or any religious purpose, and has been used by all the different organizations for Christian work in that district and identified with the West Flamboro church.

The first superintendent was William Wood, Sr., and with Tim as teachers at the first, William Henderson, T. S. Henderson, Alexander Nicol and Miss A. Stephenson and later Miss Alice Robinson, Miss Sarah Wray and Miss Jean Hugill with Miss Alison Henderson. Mr. Wm. Wood Sr. was not only superintendent, but also acted as secretary and treasurer. In this position he continued diligent and faithful rendering most valuable and efficient service until the beginning of January, 1906, when he was laid aside by a very serious illness and so unable to engage any longer in the work he loved so well. The present superintendent is Mr. T. S. Henderson and with him as teacher, Miss Alison Henderson.

For the first eight years no financial report was published but according to the liberal contributions of the school, it is estimated that the average per annum would be \$36, which would give as a total, \$288.00. The amount reported since 1895, \$578.90; the amount paid for building, \$300.00. Total, \$1166.90.

Y. P. S. C. E.

In June, 1890 a Y.P.S.C.E. was organized with William Wood, Sr. as the first president, and following him T. S. Henderson, and subsequently, according to the genius of the society all the several active members of the society have held office in turn. For the first few years no annual report was published, but for the last twelve years the financial ac-



WOMAN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY, WEST FLAMBORO.

counts have been carefully recorded, and engrossed in the annual church reports, from which it appears that the offering collected and disbursed have amounted to \$640.70 for the twelve years.

This society has been productive of great good in fostering and developing Christian life and in training the young people of the district to be active in Christian work, and to be interested in all departments of the church's work at home and abroad. It has also done much to fit them for taking part in religious meetings and in the regular study of the Scriptures in preparing on the weekly topic for the usual weekly meeting. It has also helped the social side of church life, although comparatively of minor importance, yet plays a most important part in church work.

W. F. M. S.

The W.F.M.S. was organized on November 10, 1885, by Mrs. James Steele, of Dundas. President, Mrs. S. W. Fisher; Vice-President, Mrs. Weir; Secretary, Miss Jessie Weir; Treasurer, Miss Sanderson.

During the twenty-three years of its existence it is estimated that it has averaged some seventy dollars annually, according to the yearly report, making a total of \$1,610.00. It has done much good in fostering a missionary spirit, as stated in the annual report the members have been much encouraged and profited by their monthly meetings and their interest in the missionary work of the church deepened by the reading of The Tidings and such other information as is given at the different meetings. The Tidings are distributed monthly to all the members of the society, and much enjoyed. The society meets the first Wednesday of each month. President, Miss Weir; Secretary, Mrs. Adam Patterson; Treasurer, Mrs. Robert Inghilter; Vice President, Mrs. S. W. Fisher. At the last annual thankoffering service Mrs. S. W. Fisher was presented with an appreciative address and a certificate of life membership.

MISSION BANDS.

The West Flamboro Mission Band was organized some fifteen years ago with Mrs. Fisher as President; Miss Corrigan, as Vice-President; Miss Lizzie Anderson, Secretary; Mr. Henry Anderson, Treasurer.

The meetings are held on the first Sabbath of the month. A membership fee of five cents per annum is charged. A collection is taken up each month. The present officers are: Mrs. S. W. Fisher, President; Secretary, Marion Gibson; Treasurer, Edna Harper. The meetings are found to be interesting and helpful in developing a missionary spirit, and encouraging the reading of missionary news.

The Atkins' Corner Mission Band was organized on December 27th, 1900, by Mrs. J. J. Steele, Dundas. The first President was Mrs. William Wood, with Mrs. Thomas S. Henderson as Vice President and Miss Cecilia Hunter as the first Secretary, and Miss Elsie Henderson as the first Treasurer. The enrolled membership was about forty. During the six years of its existence as an organization it raised in all \$115.34.

W. H. M. S.

The W. H. M. Society was organized at Atkins' Corner on April 14th, 1908, by Mrs. Charter Thompson, of Hamilton, with Mrs. William Wood as President and Mrs. S. W. Fisher as First Vice President, and Mrs. Adam Thompson as Second Vice President and Mrs. Adam Hunter, Secretary, and Mrs. Adam Patterson, Treasurer. The meetings are held on the last Tuesday of each month in the Atkins' Corner schoolroom, or in the homes of some of its members, and are

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well attended by all its members, and the interest in Home Mission work is being deepened by The Pioneer and other information imparted at the meetings.

For many years the congregation was divided into districts for missionary purposes and collectors went round annually and gathered the money for missions, which was divided at the end of the year among the different schemes of the church. Then a change was made and envelopes were used at first every four months, then quarterly, and at the annual meeting of the congregation held in January, 1908, it was agreed to adopt the monthly system and give for missions the last Sabbath of each month.



CHAPTER VIII.

Lynden. Pastorate of Rev. S. W. Fisher, B.A. Commencement of Divine Service in Connection with the Presbyterian Church, Lynden.

The first service in connection with the Presbyterian Church in Canada was held in Mr. Robert Thompson's hall, September 7th, 1884, at 3.30 p.m. Some fifty persons were present. The Rev. S. W. Fisher, B.A., of West Flamboro, conducted the service, preaching on Matthew 11: 29-31. On account of Mr. Fisher's illness no more service was held until January 18, 1885 at 3.30 p.m. when divine service was again held in the above hall, conducted by Mr. Fisher. Then again on February 1st, and thereafter every two weeks. On the alternate Sabbath service was held in the Town Hall, Rockton, at 7.30 p.m. This arrangement continued until May 26th, 1888, when in response to a petition duly signed and presented to the Presbytery of Hamilton as under, the Rockton appointment was given up and service held every Sabbath in Lynden from that time onward, the closing service being held in Rockton, May 15th, 1888.

CONGREGATION ORGANIZED.

On February 28, 1888, a meeting called in the usual way was held in Mr. Thompson's hall, Lynden. Some thirty persons were present, when it was on motion duly made and seconded, resolved to petition the Hamilton Presbytery to take the necessary steps to have them organized as a regular congregation, with service every Sabbath. The petition was signed that day by fifteen members of the West Flamboro Presbyterian church and thirteen others, which was afterwards increased to twenty-two members and twenty others. This petition was presented to the Presbytery at its regular meeting, March 20th. Mr. Fisher and Mr. Robert Thompson were heard in connection therewith. After full consideration the Presbytery agreed to receive the petition and appointed

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MRS. R. THOMPSON



ROBERT THOMPSON



JOHN BAIRD



LYNDEN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Dr. Laing, of Dundas, with Rev. Samuel Carruthers, of Kirkwall, and Mr. Robert McQueen, elder, a committee to visit Lynden, and make full enquiry into all the circumstances of the case; and also to visit the congregation of West Flamboro, and to ascertain their mind on this matter. This committee met in the hall, Lynden, on the 25th day of April, 11 a.m. Some forty persons were present. All the particulars having been elicited the deputation proceeded in the afternoon to West Flamboro, where they met some forty persons and made full enquiry into all the circumstances involved. The committee gave in their report to the Presbytery on May 15th, recommending that the prayer of the petition be granted. To this the Presbytery agreed and appointed Rev. Samuel Carruthers, Moderator of Presbytery, with Rev. S. W. Fisher to organize the petitioners into a regular congregation in connection with the Presbyterian Church in Canada, to be united with the congregation of West Flamboro, to form one pastoral charge with one Session. This committee met in the hall, Lynden, May 30th, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon when the Rev. Samuel Carruthers preached, the Rev. S. W. Fisher leading in prayer. In connection therewith the petitioners were organized as above indicated. The first meeting of the congregation for the election of Managers was held July 16th which completed the organization of the congregation by the pastor.

In connection with the first communion service this minute is noted in the Session records:

"In the hall at Lynden on the 25th day of June, 1888, the Session met and was constituted with prayer by the Moderator, Rev. S. W. Fisher, present besides, Thomas Thompson, John Boyle, Dundas Kinnaird, James George, Thomas Gibson and Andrew Black. The minutes of Session were read and sustained. The Moderator recommended that John Baird, John Clement, Mrs. Bishop, Sr., and Mrs. Walters be received into full communion on profession of their faith. The Session having made arrangements for the

due observance of the Lord's Supper joined with the congregation in Divine service conducted by the Rev. Samuel Carruthers, of Kirkwall, at the close of which those received on confession of faith were suitably addressed by the pastor and tokens were given the communicants, after which the Session adjourned to meet in the same place on Sabbath, July 1st, for the observance of the Lord's Supper."

In the hall, Lynden, on Sabbath, July 1st, the Session met according to adjournment, and was constituted with prayer by the Moderator, Rev. S. W. Fisher, present besides Thomas Thompson, John Boyle, Dundas Kinnaird, James George, Thomas Gibson and Andrew Black. The Session then united with the congregation in the solemn observance of the Lord's Supper, forty-four being present. Of this number the following persons formed the first communion roll of the Lynden congregation and were present at the above communion service, the remainder being members of the West Flamboro congregation:

Robert Thompson, Sr.	Thomas Patrick
Mrs. R. Thompson, Sr.	Mrs. T. Patrick
R. A. Thompson	Mrs. Blasdell
Barbara Thompson	Mrs. George Smith
Euphemia Christie	Matthew Nisbet
Mary Christie	Louisa Shelby
Adam Nisbet	Peter Manderson
Mrs. A. Nisbet	Mrs. P. Manderson
Elizabeth Nisbet	John Baird
Stephen Nisbet	John Clement
Mrs. S. Nisbet	Mrs. Bishop, Sr.
Samuel Larmon	Mrs. Walters
Mrs. S. Larmon	Dr. J. L. Addison

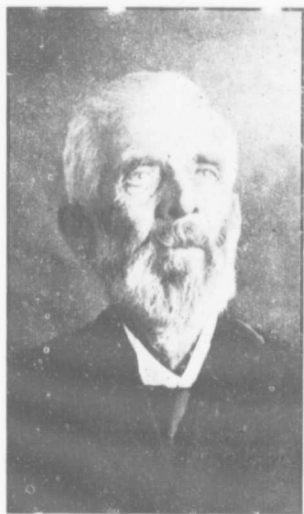
A Sabbath school was organized July 29th, 1888, with an attendance of fifty, Mr. A. L. Baird was appointed superintendent, and among those who took part as teachers were John Baird, Miss B. Thompson, Mr. Kelly, Mrs. T. Hull, Mrs. G. VanSickle, Miss Nimock, Miss Mary VanSickle, Miss



MRS. J. L. ADDISON



DR. J. L. ADDISON



SOLOMON WOOD



JOHN ROBB, Elder



LYNDEN SABBATH SCHOOL TEACHERS.

L. McLeod, Miss L. Nisbet, Miss Nellie Hanes. Of these only two remain who have been regularly on the staff of teachers ever since, viz., Mrs. T. Hull and Mrs. George Vansickle. Mr. A. L. Baird remained superintendent until August 26th, the same year, when he resigned, as he was moving away; and his brother Mr. John Baird, was appointed to take his place, which position he held until June 15th, 1902, when he passed away to his eternal reward, thus remaining faithful unto death, to such the crown of life is given. Mr. E. B. Howard who acted as superintendent during Mr. J. Baird's long illness, then took full charge, and continued faithfully both as superintendent and teacher until his removal to Toronto, when the present superintendent, scholars whose attendance is recorded in the first days of the Mr. R. A. Thompson was elected to succeed him. Of the school, only two are at present connected with the school, Charles Boyle, Librarian, H. Knox, teacher. The present officers are as follows: Superintendent—R. A. Thompson; Secretary—John R. Harris; Assistant—E. M. Morrison; Librarian—Charles Boyle. Teachers,—R. A. Thompson, H. C. Morrison, W. H. Baird, Miss Carrie Black, Mrs. Thomas Hull, Miss Edith Weir, Miss Ella Larmon, Mrs. G. Vansickle, Mrs. J. Archer, Assistant Teachers—Howard Knox, Alexander Shields, Miss Lily Robbins, Miss Alice Robbins, Miss Sarah Larmon. Scholars on roll, 74. Average attendance, 50. A contribution for Missions is taken up each month.

At the commencement of the Public worship in the hall the service of praise was conducted by Mr. Hoese for several Sabbaths, when an organ was purchased and used in the service with Miss Barbara Thompson as organist, and the following are said to have assisted in the choir on the first day the organ was used, Miss Mary Christie, Miss L. Nisbit, Miss S. Tolhurst, R. A. Thompson, and A. M. Nisbit. Others soon joined the choir, with many more who have at different times assisted in the service of praise in the choir during the last twenty four years, and have freely rendered faithful and efficient service.

Among those who have filled the position of organist in the regular church services are Mrs. (Dr.) Addison, Mrs. W. C. Richards, Mrs. Mulholland, Miss Edith Harris, and the present organist, Mrs. H. C. Morrison, and in addition to these, the following have served as organist in the Sabbath School, —Miss Maud Harris, Miss Ida Hull, Miss Worthy Black, and Miss Jessie Rous the present organist. The present members of the choir are—Messrs. R. A. Thompson, H. C. Morrison, Andrew Black, Miss Carrie Black, Miss Jessie Rous, Mrs. H. C. Morrison—organist.

At a meeting of the congregation held July 16th, 1888, a Board of Managers was appointed, consisting of Stephen Nisbet, Thomas Patrick, Samuel Larmon, John Baird, Dr. Addison, Peter Manderson, and R. A. Thompson who was also appointed secretary and treasurer by the managers at their first meeting held at the close of congregational meeting that same day. At the above meeting the pastor presided, and Mr. R. A. Thompson was appointed secretary. There was also a committee appointed to consider the prospects of building a new church, consisting of John Baird, Dr. Addison and R. A. Thompson, these to constitute the building committee, which was afterwards increased by the addition of Robert Thompson, Solomon Wood, and R. L. Patterson. At the above meeting Mr. A. L. Baird was appointed superintendent of the Sabbath School to be organized on the 29th inst, with Mr. Peter Manderson as assistant.

Another meeting of the congregation was held on Jan. 14th, 1889, when the following motion was made by Mr. Stephen Nisbet, and seconded by Mr. Robert Thompson. That having heard the report of the building committee in reference to the subscription list for a new church, and finding it has been so successful thus far, we should proceed at once to secure a site, and further to make an estimate as to what a church with a seating capacity of 200 would cost. The building committee was authorized to take the necessary steps to carry out the above resolutions, and are hereby

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LYNDEN CHOIR.

empowered to carefully consider Mr. R. A. Thompson's offer of a site for \$200.00, and if they deemed it suitable to purchase the same. The committee was also instructed to secure building material and have it delivered as soon as convenient. At this meeting the pastor was requested to secure the sanction of the Presbytery in regard to the site. According to instruction the committee at once set to work to get the material, and before April, a large proportion had been secured and laid on the ground free of charge for teaming. As the fall of snow that winter was plentiful, it afforded good opportunity for getting a great deal of work done.

At a meeting of the congregation held in March 1889, the committee were authorized to advertise for tenders, and to submit the same to the congregation as soon as convenient. The next meeting of the congregation was held on April 25th, when as already stated Messrs. Robert Thompson, Solomon Wood and R. L. Patterson, were added to the Building Committee. The first tenders for the work of the church were then submitted, and the conclusion that the meeting arrived at was embodied in the following resolution, moved by Mr. Thomas Patrick, seconded by Mr. John Case, that the Building Committee be empowered to take the necessary steps to complete the contract or contracts with the lowest tender for the erection of a church not to exceed about \$3000.00. After full consideration, the contract for stone and brick work, plastering, etc., was let to Messrs. Hanes and Hull, and the carpenter work, painting, glazing, etc., was given to Mr. F. M. Miscner of Jerseyville.

At a meeting held July 12th, 1889, Messrs Solomon Wood, John Baird, and John Case were appointed the first Trustees of Church property.

The corner stone of the new church was laid August 6th, 1889, by the Hon. Thomas Bain, M.P., the congregation having presented to him a silver trowel with which to

lay it. The building operations were carried on with all speed by the contractors, and the church completed about the middle of February 1890.

On the 23rd day of February 1890 the new church was opened and solemnly dedicated to the worship of God by the Rev. William Cochrane, D.D., then of Brantford, who preached in the morning from Psalm 24:7-10 and in the evening on Malachi 3:16-08. The pastor preached in the afternoon on Ps. 27:4 and 5. At all the services the church was crowded and the collections most liberal. On the Monday evening a tea meeting was held, when the church was again crowded. A good programme was rendered and excellent addresses given suitable to the occasion. The estimated cost of the new church was about \$4000.00, and it was all paid for within a year of the opening.

Precommunion service was held in the new church on April 11th, 1890, conducted by the Rev. John McClung of Ancaster, and on Sabbath April 13th the communion was dispensed to forty-three Communicants. The elders present, Thomas Thompson, John Boyle, Thomas Gibson, William Clark and Andrew Black.

From this date the Lord's Supper has been regularly observed three times each year, following that in Flamboro.

Some six months after the new church was opened, the congregation suffered a great loss in the death of Mr. Robert Thompson, a member of the congregation and of the Building Committee. He died Oct. 13th, 1890.

Mr. Robert Thompson was received into full communion with the West Flamboro Congregation, when quite young. His name appears among the oldest members of that congregation. From the first he took a deep interest in the prosperity of the church, doing his full share of work, and giving liberally of his means to maintain Gospel ordinances. Though proposed more than once for the office of the eldership, he always declined, preferring to help on the work in

his own quiet way. He was the first to arrange for Presbyterian services in Lynden and through his efforts the congregation was organized freely giving the use of his hall for that purpose. He was the first to move in the building of the new church, giving freely and liberally of his money and his time to help on the work. Most considerate of the opinion and suggestions of others, always willing to fall in with whatever would be for the best interest of the congregation, ever studying the things that made for peace. No person was more delighted when the new church was completed and opened for public worship. It seemed to be the desire of his heart to see it opened, the balance of the debt all provided for and he got his wish, living to enjoy the services for some months after. An affectionate husband, a loving father and a true friend. His end was peace. Truly the righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance.

The first election of elders took place in the Lynden Church on September 12th, 1893, and resulted, after the usual steps had been taken in favor of Mr. R. A. Thompson, Mr. J. M. Robb and John Baird who were ordained and inducted to the office of ruling elders on the 17th day of Dec. 1893, according to the prescribed form.

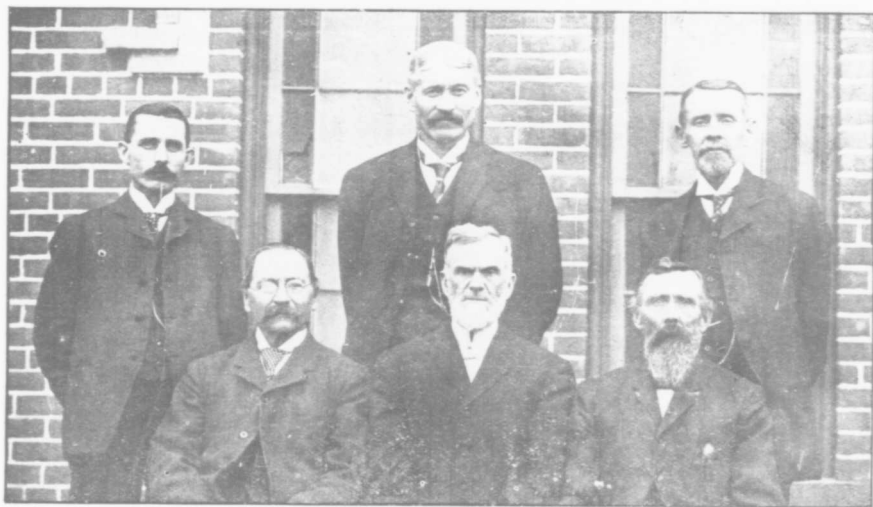
The following obituary minute was adopted by the Session and engrossed in the Session Records.

The Session desire to put on record the great loss they have sustained in the death of Mr. John Baird, a member of Session, who was ordained and inducted to the office of ruling elder on December seventeenth, one thousand eight hundred and ninety-three, and was removed by death June fifteenth, one thousand nine hundred and two. Mr. Baird was received into full communion with the church on confession of faith, June twenty-ninth, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-eight, and on August twenty sixth the same year, he was appointed to succeed his brother Mr. A. Baird as superintendent of the Sabbath School which position he continued to fill with great diligence and faithfulness, for many years,

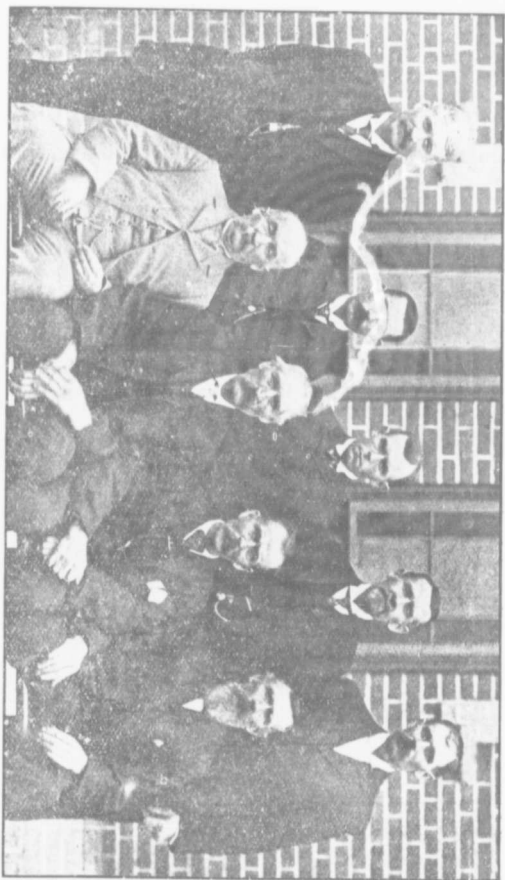
until laid aside with severe and protracted illness, which he bore with Christian patience and fortitude. Though prevented from taking further active part in the Sabbath School or prayer meeting in both of which he had rendered efficient and valuable service, yet he never lost his interest in either, or the work of the congregation, until the end came, often enquiring about the Sabbath School and speaking of the happy and profitable time he had spent in the service of the church. Though suffering intensely at times, he never complained that his lot was hard. An affectionate husband, a wise councillor and a true friend, in the removal of their esteemed and loved brother at the age of forty-seven, the members of Session would feel more than ever the admonition,—'Prepare to meet thy God O Israel.'

At a meeting of Session held in the house of Mr. Thomas Thompson Sr., Orinny on the fourteenth day of November one thousand nine hundred and two, present beside the Moderator, Rev. S. W. Fisher, Thomas Thompson, John Lawson, James George, Dendas Kinnaird, Andrew Black and R. A. Thompson. The Moderator stated that the object of the meeting was to discuss the matter of the election of elders in the Lynden congregation. After full consideration it was decided to have an election of three elders. It was further agreed that the Moderator and Andrew Black, and R. A. Thompson be authorized to take the necessary steps to carry out this decision according to the book of forms as soon as convenient.

At a meeting of Session held in the vestry of the church, Lynden, on February 1st, 1903, the Moderator reported that all the usual procedure had been conformed to, in reference to the election of elders, and submitted the ballots for examination, which having been counted, it was found that Edward Johnston, H. C. Morrison and Wm. M. Baird were elected and they declared accordingly. Thereafter the Session at a regular meeting held in the church, Lynden, on February 22nd, 1903, met with the elders elect; and they having signified their acceptance of the call to the



LYNDEN SESSION



LYNDEN MANAGERS

eldership, the Session proceeded to examine them according to book of forms, and being satisfied with their fitness for the office appointed Friday evening, March 13th, as the date of their ordination and induction. On which date the Session met with the congregation in the church at Lynden, and in the usual way the aforesaid persons were ordained and inducted into the office of ruling elders and took their place as members of Session.

The Communion is observed three times each year, Jan., May, and Sept. The present Session, consists of the following: Rev. S. W. Fisher, B.A., Moderator; Mr. Andrew Black Clerk; Messrs. R. A. Thompson, H. C. Morrison, Ed. Johnston and William Baird.

The Session meets every four months regularly and at other times if required. The congregation is divided into elders' districts, according to the number of elders. Communion cards are used and the elders distributed them previous to each communion in their respective districts.

BOARD OF MANAGERS.

The Board of Managers consists of nine members, three of whom retire each year, but are eligible for re-election.

Secretary and Treasurer, R. A. Thompson, who has been in this office since the first election of officers in the Hall.

The present Board consists of the following: R. A. Thompson, Stephen Nisbet, Ben. G. Rous, George Blain, John Case, W. H. Baird, H. C. Morrison, Charles J. Boyle, Edward Johnston. The revenue is raised by voluntary subscriptions, weekly envelopes and open collections.

Missionary contributions are taken up monthly by open collections and envelopes.

The W.F.M.S. was organized in 1905 by Mrs. J. Steele. The first President—Mrs. H. C. Morrison; the first Secretary—Miss E. Harris; the first Treasurer—Mrs. J. Archer. Pre-

sent officers, President—Mrs. R. A. Thompson, present Secretary—Miss Sarah Larmon, present Treasurer—Mrs. J. Archer. Number of Members—14; average attendance, 8.

The meetings are held the first Thursday of each month in the basement of the church.

The society has been the means of stimulating a missionary spirit, and of deepening the interest of the members in the missionary work of the church. An Annual Thank offering meeting is held and is much enjoyed.





LYNDEN WOMAN'S FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

CHAPTER IX.

The Jubilee Services.

The services in connection with the observance of the 75th Anniversary of the organization of the congregation began with the observance of the Lord's Supper on October 25th. This was according to the arrangement of the Session. Pre-communion service was conducted in Lynden on October 22nd by Rev. S. H. Gray of Dundas and in West Flamboro on October 23rd by Rev. D. R. Drummend, of Hamilton. Both services were well attended and much enjoyed.

Six members were received into full communion with the church in Lynden and eight in West Flamboro.

On Sabbath the attendance of the members was large and the services solemn and impressive.

75th ANNIVERSARY OF CHRISTIE CHURCH.

Special services were held at West Flamboro Presbyterian church on Sabbath, November 1, in commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the founding of the church and the twenty-fifth anniversary of Rev. S. W. Fisher's pastorate there. Rev. Prof. Ballantyne, D.D., of Knox college, Toronto, was the preacher of the day and delivered two powerful and scholarly sermons, which were listened to with rapt attention by the very large congregations present.

In the morning his subject was taken from the 14th chapter of St. Luke and he spoke eloquently along the line of self denial and self sacrifice.

In the evening he took his text from St. Luke, the 19th chapter, and spoke of the difficulties to be overcome in the Christian life. Special music was rendered at both services

by the choir and Mrs. Pickard, soloist, of Toronto. In the evening a male quartette from Knox church, Dundas, consisting of Messrs. Kenny, Laing, Hunter and Telford gave some fine selections also.

The people of the country side from far and near, and of all denominations were present at these services. The Methodist churches of Copetown and West Flamboro kindly gave up their services in the evening in order to be present.

ANNIVERSARY TEA MEETING AND ENTERTAINMENT.

The anniversary tea meeting was held on Monday evening and was a most decided success. The weather was perfect, and early in the evening the crowds began to gather. Tea was served in the basement, which was beautifully fitted up. The ladies had provided a fowl supper, and the whole feast surpassed even the high reputation that the ladies, for many years, have enjoyed. Those who presided at the tables and the young ladies and gentlemen who waited on them did their work in the best possible manner. Before all could be served the church was filled and many were uncomfortably crowded together but all were glad to see so many present and were most good-natured.

Mrs. Weir, of Hamilton, for many years a member of the congregation, contributed a beautiful solo in opening. The Rev. S. W. Fisher, B.A., for twenty-five years pastor, was chairman and conducted the whole program in a happy and thorough manner, fittingly introducing the speakers with a short reference to their relationship to the occasion.

After the opening doxology sung by the audience and prayer by the Rev. J. B. Hamilton, M.A., Dundas, Mrs. Picard sang a solo. In this lady's numbers she showed a well-trained voice, of great range and sweetness, with grace of manner and pleasing expression, and she kindly responded to encores on her every appearance. The pastor in his introductory remarks referred to the souvenir volume soon



LYNDEN CONGREGATION.

to be published and gave a summary of its contents, which led all to have a desire to secure a volume when the opportunity will be given. Miss Della Fiatt then followed in a pleasing recitation which was well rendered, as were all her readings and she was vigorously encored.

The Rev. Beverly Ketchen, M.A., of McNab street church, Hamilton, gave an interesting address bearing the congratulations of the Presbytery of Hamilton on the auspicious occasion. He referred to the founders of the church, and bore testimony to the faithfulness and many excellent characteristics of the pastor, as one of the Presbytery's most faithful and most beloved members.

The Hon. Thomas Bain was the next speaker. His father had been an elder of the congregation many years ago and he himself was a member, having united when the Rev. Mr. Christie was the minister. He spoke feelingly of the old days, the old pews and the services then continuing for four hours every Sabbath. He bore his tribute of regard for the grand old people who were strong in the noblest of the virtues, and who were an inspiration to the present generation.

A piano solo was then rendered by Miss Peene, A.T.C.M., of Hamilton, who showed excellent technic and fine expression.

The Rev. S. W. Holden, Methodist minister of Copetown, then spoke of the better relationship which subsisted among the different denominations in these later years and extended the congratulations of his people to their friends of the Presbyterian church on their Diamond Jubilee, wishing them every success in the days to come.

The Rev. Mr. Marshall, of St. George, as representing a congregation whose existence was accounted for by the earnest missionary labors of the Rev. Mr. Christie, spoke eloquently of those Pilgrim Fathers in early days whose earnest

work remains as a heritage for succeeding generations. In felicitous terms he extended the congratulations of his own congregation to the parent church on their seventy-fifth anniversary.

Mr. R. A. Thompson, ex-M.L.A., of Lynden, and grandson of the Rev. Mr. Christie, spoke most touchingly of his relationship to the congregation, recalling much that was exceedingly interesting as the best traditions of the congregation were recited. He also spoke briefly of the Lynden congregation as having been organized in Mr. Fisher's pastorate, and of the esteem all entertained for him as their pastor.

Rev. C. Ashdown, of Kirkwall, represented the congregation of Beverly, whose origin was also associated with Mr. Christie's early missionary enterprise, as he conducted services there which led to the organization of the congregation about seventy-five years ago. He conveyed the congratulations of his people and urged greater missionary zeal among the favored congregations of today who might do more good than was being done for missions.

The last speaker was the Rev. W. Robertson, of Dundas, who was introduced as the minister who had addressed the congregation at the induction of the pastor twenty-five years ago. He congratulated the minister and the people on the long pastorate which was most unusual in this time of change. The pastorate had been a very happy and successful one. Though they had passed through the experiences that had caused friction and often almost broke up congregations yet the fire spirit and Christian discretion of both pastor and people had preserved them from discord and strife. They had all sought the peace and prosperity of Zion and had enjoyed long years of happy fellowship together.

Mention should also be made of the excellent work that had been done by Mrs. Fisher, as the faithful wife of the pastor. Her labors have been constant and indefatigable and no

small amount of the success of the congregation is due to her untiring efforts with her husband. Their estimable family has also been a comfort to their parents and they have been very much esteemed for their good helpfulness in many ways in the work of the congregation. Many who were never connected with the West Flamboro Presbyterian church attended the very interesting services, coming long distances and renewing the friendships of other days. Mr. W. Pickard was accompanist of the evening and played with great skill and culture.

The meeting closed with a hearty vote of thanks to all who assisted in making the entertainment so pronounced a success. This was ably moved by Mr. T. S. Henderson, one of the most useful members, and seconded by Mr. Daniel Wray in a short speech.

Mr. Fisher then in a few words thanked the people for their great kindness to himself, Mrs. Fisher and their family during all these years and the benediction was pronounced by the Rev. J. B. Hamilton and thus memorable services were successfully brought to a close.

TO THE REV. S. W. FISHER.

To the Presbyterian Church of West Flamboro, Greeting:

"Grace be to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." I thank my God upon every remembrance of you. Always in every prayer of mine making request with joy. For your fellowship in the Gospel from the first day until now. And this I pray that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment. That ye may approve things which are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ, being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ to the glory and praise of God."

I sincerely congratulate you upon this seventy-fifth anniversary of your church. It makes a memorable epoch in your history. I am profoundly thankful to be permitted to bear a

loving tribute to your memory, and to extend my personal and ecclesiastical greetings to the grand old historic church of West Flamboro. I feel a special interest in your prosperity. It was the church of my first choice and my first love. It has been cherished in an affectionate remembrance. Its name and memory will always be dear to me. A third of a century has passed since my labors among you. A whole generation of the worthy men and women who then constituted its membership, some of whom were founders of the church, have entered into rest. The names of those grand elders, Henderson, Gray and Martin, whose witness is in Heaven, whose record is on high, have long since passed from the earthly roll call—but forgotten, never! They were men of culture and strength, with modesty and sweetness of manner, under which there was a hiding of divine power. As I write this I look down over the congregation as it was at that time, and see the dear faces of loved ones in the pews they occupied, so rarely vacant! I see their heads bent forward, eager to catch the words of the Divine truth as they came from the lips of their young servant. And how grandly and loyally they sustained him in his pastorate! And when sickness came, and the shadows fell, and the uncertainties of life hung in the balance, they were never wanting in love and loyalty. The impress of their benign influence and work may be seen in all around you. Your anniversary is a recognition of the work done by the fathers and mothers who have preceded you. Seventy-five years of faith, prayer and labor on the part of the men and women who have worshipped here, have made this church what it is today! This fact is made prominent in all the exercises of this occasion. Every reference to the virtues and deeds of the past is your tribute to those "into whose labors you have entered." The heir should fondly cherish the memory of the testator. The heritage of righteousness is the best that can be conveyed. True saintship leaves sacred influence to successors.

As a congregation and people you have much reason for encouragement. The past seventy-five years have been characterized by a marked unanimity of sentiment and action. In

all essentials to church life and work you have acted as one man. A cardinal principle with you has been, "United we stand; divided we fall." Your appreciation of the means of grace, your loyalty to the Scriptures and sound doctrines as contained in the doctrinal standards of our church, has been most conspicuous. It could not well have been otherwise after such indoctrinating as you received from that reverend and eminent servant of God, Thomas Christie—an indoctrinating certain to find its way to succeeding generations and to lay the foundations for a safe and abiding theology. This church cannot feel too thankful that early in its history it had for so long a period such an able expounder of the pure Word of God. This always impressed me in my connections with this church and I have no doubt it has my successors also. When we think of the seventy-five years of continuous Gospel preaching in this place, of the many who have been safely gathered into the fold of the Great Shepherd of the young converted to God and sent out into the world to lives of usefulness in a variety of occupations, of the sorrows that have been assuaged, and the burdens that have been lifted, of the impetus to reform work in society and the commonwealth, to which you have contributed, and the lives of virtue and Godliness which have been lived, and which are an example to coming generations, there is abundant cause for delight and thankfulness on this Anniversary occasion. I rejoice with you that God, in His goodness, gave your predecessors a place in the ranks, and permitted them to serve, some for so many years with honor, and you to succeed them in that service.

Two of the four pastors who have served you in the period you commemorate, have entered into rest. They had honorable careers. They will be long remembered by those who were benefitted and blessed by their lives. Time goes on, and the ranks are diminished. Men do, men must grow old, but the Church of Jesus Christ must ever remain young. Generations pass away but the Church of the living God endures. And this is according to a divine law. The Church does not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the

power of God. Men are only workmen, builders, erecting the temple of God, and at nightfall they cease from labor and go to their rest, and with the morning other hands take up the task and the work is carried forward to completion. But the Church of Jesus Christ cannot grow old. Like Christ, her living Head, she is endowed with eternal youth. Like Him who said, "I am the truth," she lives forever! Kingdoms and empires pass away, but the mission of the Church is everlasting. She will stand forever, for it is written, "The gates of hell shall not prevail against her."

The Church of Christ is the earthly expression of Christ's own life; and that life cannot die. The story of the cross can never grow old. Old age never comes to the Church of Christ. The years of her existence may multiply until we count her life by centuries, and yet she will be clothed in all the freshness and beauty of immortal youth. No winter to make her life barren. No frosts to kill her fruitfulness. No infirmities to cripple her powers. As long as Christ can say, "I am the life," and "because I live, ye shall live also," so long the Church shall be the life of the world.

But I must not linger—my letter is already too long. I give to your beloved pastor and his people the heartiest congratulations my heart can offer, "The lines have fallen to you in pleasant places and you have a goodly heritage." I congratulate this congregation that they have so worthy a pastor, and are permitted to celebrate the seventy-fifth anniversary of this church under such delightful circumstances, and in so appropriate a way. The living Christ has performed here many miracles of grace. This sanctuary has been the gate of heaven to a large company of the sacramental host of God's elect. Precious links bind us to the realities of the life and service in the upper sanctuary. Time speeds on; our usefulness here and preparation for heaven is shortening. When we pass on, be it ours to leave to those who shall come after us, an inspiration and encouragement that will enter into their lives and flow down with the current of years to bless the world!

Dearly Beloved, let the Church, the grandest, the most glorious and important enterprise of time, be through all changes, the one object and interest that shall enlist your first, your deepest and most constant thoughts, for which you will ever be ready to make the greatest sacrifices; to which you will give your most willing, hearty and devoted service.

"Now unto Him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Savior, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever! Amen."

REV. A. W. BENSON.

Letters of congratulation and Christian greetings to pastor and people were received from Rev. Drs. Fletcher and Lyle, and Rev. Messrs. Gray and Webster, and from Mr. Robert Christie, a son of the founder of the congregation, who had fully intended to be present, but was prevented from coming on account of enfeebled health.

And also from Rev. A. W. Benson, of Carver, Minnesota, a former pastor of the congregation, conveying greetings in a letter full of kindest remembrances of the past, and of earnest prayer and good wishes for the future prosperity of the congregation. The letter is herewith enclosed in full.

On Sabbath, November 8th, the pastor preached in both congregations from Psalm 116:12, "What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me," in which he reviewed the past history of the congregation, and the many benefits temporal and spiritual, with which the Lord had crowned the years of their pilgrimage and the boundless blessings which he had bestowed upon them and their children, thus laying them under a debt of adoring gratitude and thankfulness for all his benefits, urging all to bring themselves as living sacrifices, holy and acceptable unto God which was their reasonable service.

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