

W. L. P. S.      W. S. S.      W. S. S.      W. S. S.

SOUVENIR  
OF THE  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
CLIFFORD, ONT.

Containing a Historic Sketch of the Congregation since 1857, up to the beginning of the Year 1905; and containing Portraits of the Church and two of its Pastors.

Printed by order of the Managers of the Church.  
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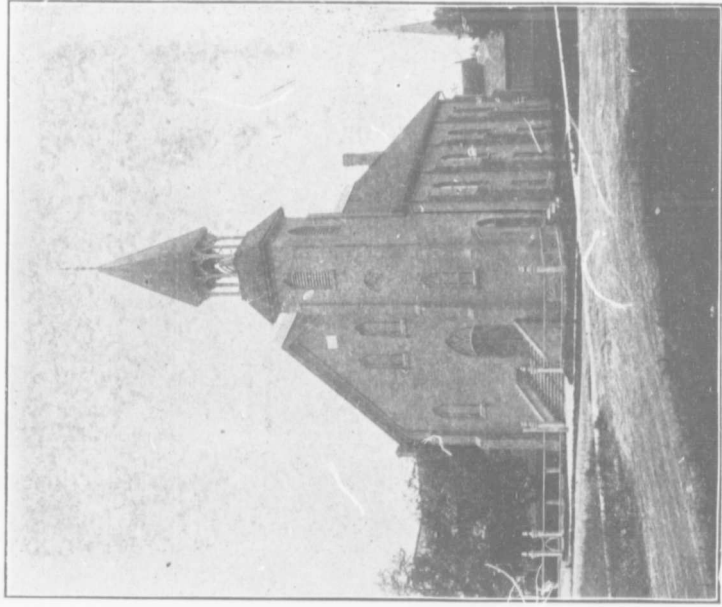
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ERRATA :

On page 1, third line, the word "formally" should read "formerly".

On page 2, second last line, bottom of second column, the word "Minto" should read "north."

On page 5, (1) In the twelfth line, first column, after the word "Sacrament" the words "of the Lord's Supper," should be added. (2) ",on July 10, 1877." should be added to the last line of second column.



KNOX CHURCH, CLIFFORD.

HISTORIC SKETCH  
OF THE  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, CLIFFORD.

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**B**ALAKLAVA is the oldest of the congregations with which Clifford was formerly connected. The first services were held in Balaklava in the summer of 1857, and on the 25th October of that year the Rev. Mr. Rennie, of Beachville, a minister of the Free Church, dispensed the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper there for the first time. From that time forward the people of Balaklava were supplied with ordinances more or less regularly.

In the summer of 1859, services were held in Mr. Donald McIntosh's house, on the town line between Carrick and Howick, by Mr. Alex. McKay, then a student at Balaklava. After that the people were supplied by ministers or students, and in July, 1861, a church was built on the corner of Mr. McIntosh's farm.

On Sept. 23rd, 1863, the Rev. Wm. Hay was settled as pastor of Balaklava, Carrick School House, McIntosh and

Orange Hill, and introduced to the people by the Rev. Mr. Stevenson, of Owen Sound.\*

In 1864, Messrs. Donald Campbell, Robert Ferguson, James Thomson, John Stewart and William Sutherland were ordained as ruling elders. Mr. Campbell is still an active and much respected member of Clifford session; Mr. Thompson now resides in Mildmay; Mr. Stewart has been for many years in Manitoba, and an elder there still, in Carman. Mr. Ferguson also went to Manitoba, and died there recently. Mr. Sutherland departed this life many years ago.

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\*We are indebted to Mr. Thos. Inglis, of McIntosh congregation, for the above facts, who obtained them from his father's diary.

In the year 1836 the people of Carrick School House, along with the people in Clifford, erected a church in Clifford, which was neither finished nor occupied for some years, because Clifford was regarded as being within the bounds of the Guelph Presbytery and under the pastoral charge of the Rev. George McLennan, minister of Knox church, Minto, who preached in the School House, a mile and a quarter south of Clifford, while Mr. Hay, who belonged to the Presbytery of Durham, preached in Carrick School House, three and a half miles north.

For some time Mr. Hay preached in Clifford in the Methodist church in place of the School House, Minto. As soon, however, as Mr. Hay found that

he was regarded as entering the bounds of Guelph Presbytery, he ceased to preach in Clifford, and Mr. McLennan then began to preach in Brown's hall, Clifford, in place of the School House south.

At a meeting in Mr. J. B. Robinson's house, Sept. 23rd, 1870, a petition was drawn up and signed by 14 individuals, to be presented to the Presbytery of Guelph, praying to be transferred to the Presbytery of Durham. Mr. A.S.Allan was appointed to support the petition before the Presbytery.

On Sept. 26, 1870, there was a meeting of the Clifford and adjoining Carrick stations of the Canada Presbyterian church, to make arrangements to raise money to floor and plaster the building

previously erected. The following committees were appointed:

BUILDING COMMITTEE	FINANCE COMMITTEE
George McDonald	Don'd McEachern
Donald Campbell	A. S. Allan
Edward Butchert	Richard Milligan
Robert McIntosh	Samuel Neill
John Hillhouse	Farquhar Campbell
J. B. Robinson	Alex. McIntosh
Donald McEachern	

At a meeting of the Presbytery of Guelph at Elora, Oct. 10, 1870, the Rev. Geo. McLennan tendered his resignation of Clifford, which was accepted. At this same meeting, the petition from Clifford was presented and supported by Mr. Allan, praying to be disjoined from the Guelph Presbytery and transferred to the Presbytery of Durham, to be

united with Balaklava and McIntosh congregations. The petition was granted, and Clifford was placed by the Presbytery of Durham under the pastoral charge of Mr. Hay. Soon after this Mr. Hay gave up his pastoral charge.

The annual meeting of the Clifford congregation was held on the 3rd Feb., 1871, with Mr. D. McEachern as chairman and A. S. Allan, secretary. The following were appointed the first managers: Donald Campbell, chairman; A. S. Allan, secretary; Alex. McIntosh, Richard Milligan, Wm. Elmslie, Thos. Frood, George Mathewson.

At this meeting, Messrs. T. Frood, D. Campbell and D. McEachern were appointed to wait on Mr. John Gray and request him to lead the congregational

singing. The congregation also agreed to pay \$175 per annum for the support of a resident minister.

The managers and building committee on June 27, 1871, arranged to put in a pulpit and pew the church, and on Sept. 24, 1871, the church was formally opened by the Rev. John Straith.

On Nov. 22, 1871, the congregation authorized Mr. Elmslie to obtain deed of church lot. Messrs. Donald Campbell, Alex. McIntosh and Wm. Elmslie were appointed the Trustees of church property, and they have ever since been and are still the Trustees.

On Feb. 7, 1872, the Rev. Wm. Blain was inducted in Clifford church as pastor of Balaklava, McIntosh and Clifford congregations. The stipend promised

was \$700 per annum and house rent, Clifford agreeing to pay \$250 per annum and one-fourth of the rent. After the induction services, the united congregations met and agreed to purchase Mr. Wm. Hood's house for a manse, for \$1,000.

The first communion roll consisted of 63 members; 30 from the Carrick station, 8 from Knox, Minto; 14 by certificate and 11 by profession of faith. The Sacrament was dispensed on June 1st, 1872.

On Feb. 2nd, 1873, the Session of Clifford was augmented by the addition of Mr. David Hillhouse and Mr. Joseph B. Robinson.

From Feb. 7th, 1872, till August 7th, 1876, the Rev. Wm. Blain ministered with much acceptance to the congregations of Balaklava, McIntosh and Clifford.

On Aug. 2nd, 1876, McIntosh was separated from Balaklava and Clifford, and united to Belmore to form a separate charge. Balaklava and Clifford still remained together, forming another charge.

On March 21, 1877, Balaklava and Clifford called Rev. A. M. Hamilton, now of Winterburn, which call he declined. Balaklava was separated from Clifford, when each became a separate charge.





REV. WM. BLAIN, Pastor,  
1872-1876.



REV. S. YOUNG, Pastor,  
From 1877, in charge 1905.

On Nov. 7, 1877, the Rev. Stephen Young, the present pastor, was inducted into the pastoral charge of Clifford.

The Board of Managers then were: Frank Dobson, Pres.; John Hillhouse, Secretary; A.S.Allan, Treasurer; Sam. Neill, Wm. Cheves, Z. Lines, Donald Campbell, John Drummond, jun., Robt. Colquhoun, Andrew Bingham.

Messrs. Samuel Neil and A. S. Allan were ordained as ruling elders on Dec. 30, 1878. Mr. Neil, after more than 14 years of service in the office, died on July 29, 1892, and Mr. David Hillhouse, for nearly 20 years an elder, died on 6th October that same year. Both were highly esteemed and much beloved by the congregation.

On the 16th Sept., 1884, there were

three additional elders ordained: Messrs. Alexander R. Davidson, John Hillhouse and Alexander Drummond. Mr. Davidson in 1897 moved outside the bounds of the congregation and connected himself with Knox church, Harriston, with which he was previously connected; and in July, 1902, Mr. Allan being appointed Sheriff of the County of Wellington, moved to Guelph, where he is an elder in St. Andrew's church, and superintendent of the Sabbath School. Both of these men were much missed in the congregation.

On the 7th of August, 1904, Mr. Samuel Noy, for many years an active and highly esteemed elder in McIntosh congregation, was inducted as a ruling elder in the congregation.

The following have been Superintendents of the Sabbath Schools:—George Mathewson, David Hillhouse, A. S. Allan, D. McEachern, James S. Dewar and John Hillhouse, the present one.

In 1878, two outside schools were organized, one up north with Mr. J. B. Robinson as Superintendent, and at first held in Mr. Donald Campbell's house; then after some years in the school house on the gravel road, with Mr. Alex. R. Davidson as Superintendent, and now and for many years Mr. David Campbell. The other was organized in the Green Bush school house, on the gravel road south, with Mr. A. S. Allan as the first Superintendent, then Messrs. Wm. Kerr, John Cockburn, Henry McAuley, and now Mr. L. Elmslie.

After the Congregationalists gave up preaching in their church on the 13th concession of Howick, a third outside Sabbath School was organized in said church. Mr. Wm. McKenzie was chosen superintendent; after him Mr. John Porterfield, jun., and after him Mr. Alex. A. Ross. After being kept open for a number of years, this school was closed on account of so many of the families leaving the locality.

The following have been the leaders of praise: Messrs. John Gray, Melville Young, James Cramming; J. B. Robinson, for the long period of 25 years, and Mr. William Taylor, the present leader.

The organ was introduced at the evening service in March, 1884, and

since March, 1889, it has been used both morning and evening.

The organists have been: Fanny Boomer, Eva Morrison, Lilly Boomer, Ethelwyn Hillhouse—who is at present and has been for more than fourteen years.

The caretakers: Mr. Truelove Seeley, for a short time; Mr. Howard, Mr. Geo. Browning, Mr. John Henderson, Mrs. John Brown, Mrs. Miller, and Mr. Seeley again for over eighteen years.

At the annual meeting in 1887, Messrs. W. D. Cheves, D. McEachern, J. B. Robinson and John Hillhouse were appointed to procure plans and estimate cost of a new church.

On the 28th March, 1887, a plan was adopted by the congregation, and Mr.

Cheves and Mr. John Hillhouse were appointed to canvass the congregation for subscriptions, to be paid in three annual instalments, first payment to be made in January, 1888.

The building committee were: Messrs. John Hillhouse, W. D. Cheves, D. McEachern, Alex. Drummond, James S. Dewar, Robert Colquhoun, Z. Lines, John Porterfield and Wm. Fraser. The total cost of church and sheds was \$5,000, and at the annual meeting in February, 1891, the building committee reported that the church was free of debt.

The church was opened, Dec. 16th, 1888. The Rev. Prof. McLaren, D. D., of Knox College, preached morning and evening, and the Rev. Samuel Jones, of Brussels, preached in the afternoon.

The W. F. M. Society was formed in 1887, with a membership of thirty. And the Christian Endeavor Society was organized in 1892, with 20 active and 15 associate members.

During the present pastorate, six young men in the congregation have studied for the ministry, and are now ordained ministers. James Drummond, of South New-Lynn, Ohio, U. S. A.; Duncan Campbell, of Armstrong, B.C.; Wm. A. Campbell, his brother, for some years a missionary in British Columbia, and at present in Toronto; Henry McCulloch, of Tavistock, Ont.; George McCulloch, his brother, of Duke Centre, Penn., U. S. A.; and Alex. A. Ross, of Penhold, Alberta. There are many others from the congregation, who are

office bearers and active workers in the church and Sabbath School where their lot is now cast.

The membership of the church at the induction of the present pastor in 1877 was 103. From that period on till 1896 it gradually increased till it reached 190. From that time the membership began to decrease, on account of the members moving away. As an indication of the many changes that have taken place during those years, there have been 392 received into the membership, while the members who have moved away or have been removed by death are 355, leaving the present membership at 140.

During that same period, that is from 1877, the congregation has contributed for missionary and benevolent purposes,

\$6,023, an average of \$223 per annum, and for all purposes \$44,857, an average of \$1,550 per annum. Though the members have been on the decrease of late years, the contributions, specially for missionary purposes, have been on the whole on the increase.

The present Trustees of church property are, and have been since the organization of the congregation: Donald Campbell, Alex. McIntosh and William Elmslie.

The present Board of Managers are: John Drummond, President; John R. Scott, Secretary; John Hillhouse, Treas-

urer; Wm. R. Johnston, Thos. Johnston, James R. Aitchison, Andrew McIntosh, G. H. Whyte and Joseph C. Thompson.

The present members of Session are: Rev. Stephen Young, Moderator; Donald Campbell, J. B. Robinson, Alex. Drummond, John Hillhouse and Samuel Nay.

In humble gratitude to Almighty God for all His manifold mercies, this short history of the congregation is given.

Signed on behalf of the Session.

S. YOUNG, Pastor.

NOTE—This Sketch was read at the annual meeting of the Congregation, in February, 1905, and ordered to be printed in book form.

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