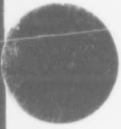


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# HISTORY



KNOX  
CHURCH  
MISSION



Gift of Head of the Lake  
Historical Society

## 21 YEARS' HISTORY



### KNOX CHURCH MISSION

HAMILTON, ONT.



FROM JANUARY 1888 TO  
JANUARY 1909



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# HISTORY

OF

## KNOX CHURCH MISSION

JANUARY 1888

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JANUARY 1909

**I**N the month of June, 1887, a number of the young people of Knox Church congregation formed a society for the purpose of doing any mission work that might be found necessary, as well as to do other work in connection with the church.

There being no Presbyterian Church north of Cannon street, except in the extreme east end of the city, and no Sunday School of any kind in that portion of the city, west of John street, the advisability of organizing a Sunday School was considered. Some of the members consented to canvas this district in search of scholars, and bills were posted in factories and other places announcing the opening of the School. The only suitable room which could be secured was in Grant's sail loft, at the foot of Bay street. This room was prepared, and on Sunday morning, January 1st, 1888, at half-past nine, sixteen teachers and fifteen scholars assembled.

With some difficulty the names of those present on that day have been found. The scholars were : Carrie Holmes, Maggie Griffin, Louisa Richardson, Charlotte Barker, Maggie Barker, Fred Holmes, Joseph Smith, James Dilworth, John Griffin,

Stephen Griffin, Willie Griffin, Radcliffe Richardson, Willie Richardson, Robert Phillips, George Barker.

The teachers were : Mr. W. H. McLaren, Mr. A. McPherson, Mr. T. H. Smith, Mr. W. J. Cunningham, Capt. A. H. Malcolmson, Mr. James Johnson, Mr. James Davidson, Mr. James Edwards, Mr. Fred. Pecover, Miss S. H. McKean, Miss Minnie Pulling, Miss Bessie McClure, Miss Ida Malcolmson, Miss Martha Richardson, Miss Jennie Richardson, Miss Annie Munro, Miss Annie Mitchell and Miss Belle Gillespie.

Of these teachers many are still actively engaged in Sunday School work, either in our own city or elsewhere.

In order to keep up the attendance and to secure more pupils, some of the teachers called for the pupils on the Sunday mornings, and a thorough canvass of the district was made, so that by the close of the first year the number on the roll was 116, with an average attendance of 102. It soon became necessary to find another building to meet in, as the one then occupied could only be had for a few months, and that only through the kindness of friends. As no suitable building could be rented, it was proposed to build a school. At the congregational meeting of Knox Church a building committee was appointed, and a resolution was passed appropriating \$500 from the funds of the Church, towards the purchase of a lot on which to erect a Mission Sunday School. As the owners of the sail-loft required the place for their own use, we had to leave it earlier in the year than we expected, and there being no other building available, we were compelled to hold our School in the basement of Knox Church. This move reduced the attendance to a great extent. A circular was prepared and issued to the congregation, soliciting subscriptions towards the erection of a School, which was heartily responded to. Donations of

money were received from Knox Church Sunday School Classes, from the Christian Endeavor Society, and from friends who were not connected with the congregation. When the building was completed other friends contributed to the furnishing of the School such gifts as gas fixtures, a clock, a stove, lumber for a wood-shed, etc.; and on the last day of June, 1889, our new School was opened, free of debt, although no subscriptions had been solicited personally. Rev Dr. Fraser, pastor of Knox Church, conducted the opening service. He chose as his subject the very appropriate words found in Rev. iii. 8: "Behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it." From that time until the close of the year the average attendance was 143.

In the beginning of 1890 it was thought to be for the best interests of the School that it should be held in the afternoon, instead of in the morning, and to be conducted by a separate staff of teachers and officers from that of the Home School. The change accordingly took place, and the School met in the afternoon at 3 o'clock. This reduced the attendance considerably, as a number of the pupils attended other Sunday Schools in the afternoon. This change also caused the loss of our Superintendent, Mr. W. H. McLaren, to whose untiring zeal much of the success of the past two years was due. He still occupied the position of Superintendent in the Home School, and therefore could not remain with the Mission. Mr. John Madill was elected to the position and occupied it for one year.

During this year a sum of money was appropriated by the teachers for the purchase of books for a library. These, together with donations from Knox Sunday School, placed us in possession of a number of useful books which were gladly welcomed by the scholars. On Thanksgiving Day of the same year the first weekly prayer-meeting was

held, and these meetings were held regularly on Thursday evenings for some years.

At the annual meeting of the congregation in 1891, it was agreed to engage a student from Knox College to work in connection with the Mission for the summer months, and Mr. H. A. McPherson was appointed. He confined his labors to the district lying between John street and the Bay and north of Strachan street, the object being to work this district as thoroughly as possible. Two hundred and seventy-five families were visited, of whom a large number were non-church goers. Many of these were visited frequently in order to interest them in the Mission. During this year about 100 new books were added to the library and a number of others donated by friends. Toward the close of the year a Young People's Society was formed for mutual improvement, and some very profitable meetings were held, the membership being 65. Mr. T. H. Smith was Superintendent during this year.

In the year 1892, Mr. H. A. McPherson again had charge of the work during the summer months, and as in the previous year, he worked faithfully and successfully. To him and other friends we owe sincere thanks for their successful efforts to secure donations of lumber and money for the erection of the fence which now encloses the Mission property, thus improving its appearance, and also for the further improvement of the lot by sodding, planting flowers, and keeping them in order. During the remainder of the year a student from Knox College conducted the Sunday evening services.

Mr. John Smith, who had been elected Superintendent for 1892, having to leave the city early in the year, was succeeded by Mr. R. MacRae, who remained until the close of next year, when his services were required by Knox Sunday School.

At the annual meeting of the congregation in



1893, a step forward was taken, the Session being authorized to secure a suitable man to work in connection with the Mission, all the year round, and also to act as an assistant to the Pastor. The services of Mr. Duncan Robertson were secured, and he worked most faithfully, from the early part of the year until January, 1894, when he received and accepted a call to King Street Church, London.

During this year the interior of the building was painted and kalsomined, and a new library was obtained. A Junior Endeavor Society was organized on December 10th, 1894, with a membership of 37, and continued for about ten years to do good work in visiting the sick, distributing flowers to these, and calling on absent scholars. During this time Miss J. W. Binney, of Knox Church, ably fulfilled the duties of Superintendent of this Society. A frame addition was also made to the Sunday School building, which served the double purpose of kitchen and primary class room. This room proved a great convenience to the primary class.

On the return to college of Mr. H. A. McPherson, the work was given into the hands of Mr. J. G. Cheyne, the Superintendent, who was then looking forward to the ministry. He worked very energetically until leaving for college in October, 1895, after which the evening services were continued by the Session of Knox Church for some time. Mr. Cheyne was succeeded as Superintendent by Mr. J. W. Stevenson. Twenty-nine scholars earned prizes for regular attendance during 1895, and the School was able to hand the sum of \$75 over to the managers of Knox Church to help defray our expenses.

In the year 1897 the walls of our building were wainscotted and the present library was built. \$25 was expended in new books, \$50 was given to Knox Church managers, and \$30 to Missions.

In 1898 a brick addition, containing two rooms.

was built at the rear of the main building, thus providing much-needed accommodation for the Primary, and the Young Men's Bible Classes. This addition cost \$399, and was opened free of debt, the money having been cheerfully contributed by friends of the Mission, who were canvassed by the teachers.

In the year 1899 a Tuesday afternoon meeting for mothers was organized, largely through the energy of one of our teachers, Mrs. Mansergh. She acted as President and devoted much of her time visiting the homes of the people. This meeting developed into what was afterwards known as the Dorcas Society, with Mrs. W. T. Evans, of Knox Church, as President; and it in turn was succeeded by the Ladies' League, at present presided over by Mrs. Jas. P. Coutts. Miss Halcrow was the Bible teacher at these meetings for years, and many delightful hours were spent in study under her leadership. Much praise is due this faithful band of women for the share they have had in building up the work of the Mission. They have practically mothered the School, and have given liberally of their funds towards the comfort and adornment of the building.

In 1899 Mr. J. W. Stevenson resigned the duties of Superintendent to go to the West, finally entering Manitoba College in preparation for the ministry. He was succeeded by Mr. R. McRae, who was a former Superintendent and a general favorite at the Mission. In the year 1900 Mr. McRae's business duties required his removal from the city. Mr. Samuel Groves and the late Mr. Alex. McPherson were then appointed to act as interim Superintendents, until the month of September, when Mr. W. J. Cunningham, of the Home School, was elected to fill the vacancy. On Christmas Sunday of that year the Mission held its first union service with the scholars of the Home School in their spacious building, and these annual gather-

ings have been a pleasant feature of the Christmas season ever since. On New Year's Eve, at the suggestion of some of our young men, a watch-night service was conducted by Mr. J. G. Cheyne, as a fitting introduction to the twentieth century.

In 1901 the co-operation of the scholars was invited towards raising funds for the purchase of a furnace. The quarterly collections were set aside for that purpose, and so hearty was the response that \$111.55 was raised. The furnace was installed that fall, the young men of the School doing the necessary excavating themselves. Mr. J. G. Cheyne conducted prayer-meetings during his college vacation that year.

In 1902 the Cradle Roll, for infants under three years of age, was instituted with Mrs. Cunningham as Superintendent. The quarterly collections, amounting to \$100, were given towards the support of a missionary in Red Deer, Alberta. \$100 was also spent on new books for the library.

In 1903 Mr. Maurice Festing conducted a weekly prayer-meeting for some time, and during the winter months, at the suggestion of the pastor of Knox Church, Rev. E. A. Henry, B. A., the School was kept open every evening as a counter attraction to the saloons. Games, amusements, and refreshments were supplied, under the supervision of two of our teachers, James Havers and James Scott, and with the aid of the Dorcas Society.

The year 1904 was a very trying one. Hamilton Presbytery obtained the consent of Knox Church to take over the work of the Mission, but after keeping the School in suspense for months the idea was finally abandoned. Meanwhile indifference prevented progress, and the teaching staff was crippled by the loss of many valuable workers. The quarterly collections for this and the preceding year, amounting in all to \$200, were sent to mission fields in the North-West.

Early in 1905 the teachers determined to make

an effort to have preaching services again revived, and the quarterly collections were donated towards a fund with that object in view. The roof of the building was reshingled that year at a cost of \$85. As an experiment, the school met from 2 to 3 o'clock during the summer months, with the result that there was better attendance and interest than ever before during the hot season. This time-table has been in force from June to September every year since.

As a part of the policy outlined by the teachers early in 1905, the Mission requested the congregation of Knox Church, at its annual meeting in January, 1906, to permit a revival of the preaching services, the cost of same, during the summer months, to be borne by the Mission. This permission was heartily granted, and a committee was appointed to assist in financing the undertaking, should this be necessary. Mr. D. A. MacKay, B. A., of Knox College, was engaged for this work, and morning and evening services were conducted by him from 1st May until the re-opening of College in October. This young man worked the field very faithfully, but he had not been in good health for some time, and shortly after his return to college he took seriously ill and died in the Toronto hospital. He was succeeded by Mr. H. M. Paulin, B. A., also of Knox College. Mr. Paulin came up every week from Toronto for the Sunday services during the winter term, and when College closed in March, 1907, he devoted all his time to the field. As a result of these services every branch of the work took on new life. The people contributed so well that it was not found necessary to seek help from the committee appointed by Knox Church, although some of the members of it voluntarily contributed generously. It was found necessary to have a choir to lead the service of praise, and as there was abundance of material amongst the adult classes of the school,

Prof. Johnson was invited to come down and organize a choir, which he cheerfully did. This organization has had several leaders, but it is still doing faithful work, and is contributing an important part towards the enjoyment of the Sunday services. An additional stimulus towards the enthusiasm and attendance in the school, was the introduction, in October, 1906, of the Robt. Raikes' Diploma System, by which honor marks are given for home study, church and Sunday-school attendance, Bibles brought to school, and collection. As the result of a year's test of this system, 35 members of the school received diplomas for having earned at least 85 per cent. of the total marks given.

In June, 1906, the school sustained a great loss in the death of Mr. Thos. G. McIlroy, who had been the faithful and efficient secretary for a number of years, and who was a universal favorite.

Early in 1907, the Young Men's and the Young Women's Bible classes each organized along the lines of the new Adult Bible Class Movement. This resulted in a steady growth in attendance in the adult department of the school. These young people began to feel the need of mutual help along literary and social lines and to meet this want there was organized in the fall of 1907, a Men's League and a Young Ladies' Mission Band, each with its officers and committees. Both of these organizations are doing excellent work for their members, besides interesting young people in the various services of the mission. In August, 1907, the interior of our building was painted and decorated, adding greatly to its attractiveness. This was made possible through a donation of \$100 from the Ladies' League, realized by the sale of their needlework.

In October, 1907, Miss Annie Mitchell, the superintendent of the Primary Department, felt obliged to give up her work, and take a complete

rest. This was a great loss to the school. She served the school faithfully and efficiently for many years, and her scholars bear the imprint of her sterling influence and thorough teaching. It is to Miss Mitchell that we are largely indebted for the first seven years' history of our work, the publication prepared by her in 1895 having been copied almost verbatim in this review.

In October, 1907, Mr. Paulin went to Glasgow to continue his studies, and he was succeeded for the winter term by Mr. H. R. Pickup, B. A., of Knox College. Under his leadership the work showed remarkable growth in all its branches.

At the close of the year Mr. W. J. Cunningham, who had served the Sunday School as Superintendent for over seven years was obliged through ill health to retire from active duty in the mission, and we take this opportunity of stating that much of the success which has attended the mission in these later years is due to Mr. and Mrs. Cunningham's untiring efforts in School and Church services. The mission is poorer because of their retirement. Mr. Cunningham was succeeded in the Superintendency of the School by Mr. Robt. J. Anderson, who has filled the position with credit to himself, and to the general advantage of the school. Mr. James Scott, one of our popular teachers was appointed to act as assistant Superintendent, and he too has acquitted himself creditably.

Prior to the beginning of 1908 the mission workers had made several appeals to the session of Knox Church for the holding of a communion service and a separate communion roll, and this was finally granted, the first communion being held on Sabbath evening, January 12th, at which the Rev. D. H. Fletcher, D. D., interim moderator, presided. 142 communicants took part, of whom 71 were new members, 54 joining by profession, and 17 by certificate. To all who attended it was

## KNOX CHURCH MISSION

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a delightful and impressive service. The elders who assisted on that occasion were : Wm. Gillespie, J. A. Moffat, J. G. Gibson, J. M. Gow, C. W. Laing, Samuel Groves and Robt. Booth. On the evening of January 27th, the first congregational meeting was held. It was presided over by Mr. H. R. Pickup, the student in charge. A Board of Management was elected comprising the following persons : George Anstie, Wm. Henderson and Wm. Urquart to serve for one year; George J. Miller, J. A. Moffat and Wm. Hall, for two years ; R. J. Anderson, James Scott and John Young, for three years.

The envelope system for giving for current expenses was also adopted. After the evening service on April 5th, a petition was adopted and afterward signed by 193 members and adherents of the mission, asking Knox Church session to apply to the Presbytery for permission to organize a separate congregation, but as Knox Church was then without a settled pastor this petition was not presented until June 7th, the Rev. A. E. Mitchell, B. A., having in the meantime become pastor. Rev. Mr. Mitchell very kindly undertook to lay the whole case before the Presbytery, and they recommended that at the close of the summer term an ordained minister be engaged for one year, the mission agreeing to this arrangement. In April, Mr. Pickup, who had been engaged to take up mission work in the West, was succeeded by Mr. H. M. Paulin, who worked in this field during the summer of 1907. On Sabbath, May 24, the second communion was held. It was presided over by Rev. D. H. Fletcher, D. D., 22 names were added to the roll, 10 on profession and 12 by certificate.

Another forward move was made when on the evening of Sept. 21st, three elders were elected viz.; Robt. J. Anderson, George Anstie and James Jolley, the latter subsequently declining to act.

A Boys' League was organized on Monday even-

ing, Oct. 12th, under the oversight of the Men's League.

Mr. Paulin, after a faithful summer's work, returned to college in October, and the congregation, acting on the recommendation of the Presbytery, heard candidates with a view to the selection of an ordained minister, to take the oversight of the work. The following persons were heard: Rev. Hugh Matheson, Rev. John Smith, Rev. David James, Rev. H. D. Cameron; and at a congregational meeting held after service on Sabbath evening, Nov. 15th, presided over by Rev. Mr. Mitchell, the Rev. Mr. Cameron received the almost unanimous vote of those present.

Mr. Cameron subsequently accepted the call and commenced his duties on Sabbath, Dec. 20th.

It is a matter of great satisfaction that we are able to close this history of the past twenty-one years with the knowledge that an ordained minister has at last been placed in charge of the work; thus realizing the fond hopes entertained for years past by many of our most active workers.

God's richest blessing has undoubtedly attended the work of His servants thus far in this field of labor. May He as abundantly bless whatever may be undertaken in the future, so that both pastor and people may be wisely directed in the advancement of His Kingdom in this part of our city.



Average attendance and collection in the Sunday School for the past twenty-one years:

Yr.	Attndce.	Coll.	Yr.	Attndce.	Coll.
1888	102	—	1899	148	\$3.55
1889	143	\$2.21	1900	144	3.60
1890	129	2.03	1901	161	6.21
1891	155	2.26	1902	175	6.85
1892	177	2.76	1903	171	6.96
1893	197	2.43	1904	159	6.90
1894	168	2.57	1905	166	6.50
1895	150	2.73	1906	167	8.47
1896	150	2.80	1907	208	9.80
1897	142	2.58	1908	220	7.24
1898	164	3.22			

#### OFFICE BEARERS FOR THE YEAR 1908.

##### ELDERS.

Robt. J. Anderson, George Anstie.

(Under the supervision of the Session of Knox Church.)

##### MANAGERS.

Chairman, Geo. J. Miller

Secretary, Wm. Henderson

Treasurer, John Young

George Anstie, Wm. Urquhart, John A. Moffat, Wm.

Hall, Robt. J. Anderson, James J. Scott.

Caretaker—Mrs. J. Anderson.

##### CHOIR.

President, Charles Havers

Secretary-Treasurer, Miss Kate Sinclair

Librarian, Robt. Muir

Leader, George Ogilvie

Organist, Miss E. T. Hawkins

##### SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Honorary Supt., W. J. Cunningham

Superintendent, Robt. J. Anderson

Asst. Superintendent, James J. Scott

Secretary, Fred. Miller

Asst. Secretary, Wm. Pottruff

Treasurer, Miss M. Anderson

Librarian, J. M. Gow

Asst. Librarian, Edgar Miller

Organist, Robt. Havers

Asst. Organist, Miss Bella Anderson

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**SUNDAY SCHOOL—Continued**

Auditors, Miss E. J. Stewart and Miss E. B. Disher  
 Hon. Supt. of Cradle Roll, Mrs. W. J. Cunningham  
 Supt. of Cradle Roll, Mrs. David Sinclair  
 Supt. of Primary Dept., Miss C. Mitchell

Teachers—Misses F. McKenzie, A. McKenzie, Kate Sinclair, Christina Mitchell, Mary McManus, Bella Anderson, J. Robertson, E. J. Stewart, Kate Brown, N. Archibald, M. Anderson, E. Miller, Maud McFadden, L. McFadden, E. B. Disher, Mesdames David Sinclair, Jas. P. Coutts, E. Hill, C. Bolton, Edmonstone, Messrs. Geo. Anstie, John A. Moffat, B. Malcolmson, Jas. J. Scott.

**LADIES' LEAGUE**

President, Mrs. J. P. Coutts  
 Vice-President, Mrs. Wm. Hall  
 Secretary, Mrs. E. Hill  
 Treasurer, Mrs. R. J. Anderson  
 Convenor of Sewing Committee, Mrs. J. Anderson  
 Convenor of Relief Committee, Mrs. D. Sinclair  
 Convenor of Visiting Committee, Mrs. W. H. Long  
 Auditors, Mrs. C. Patterson and Mrs. Wm. Hall

**MEN'S LEAGUE**

President, George Hobson  
 Vice-President, Ralph Douglas  
 Secretary-Treasurer, W. C. Young  
 Press Agent, Jas. Gorman.

**YOUNG LADIES' MISSION BAND**

President, Miss Maud McFadden  
 Vice-President, Miss E. T. Hawkins  
 Treasurer, Miss J. McIntosh  
 Secretary, Miss J. Young

**BOYS' LEAGUE**

President, George Yates  
 Vice-President, Alex. Garvey  
 Secretary, Robt. Gardiner  
 News Agent, Raymond Reid

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**PASTORS OF KNOX CHURCH DURING OUR HISTORY**

1888-1902—Rev. Mungo Fraser, D. D.  
 1903-1906—Rev. E. A. Henry, B. A.  
 1906-1907—Rev. S. B. Nelson, D. D.  
 1908 —Rev. A. E. Mitchell, B. A.