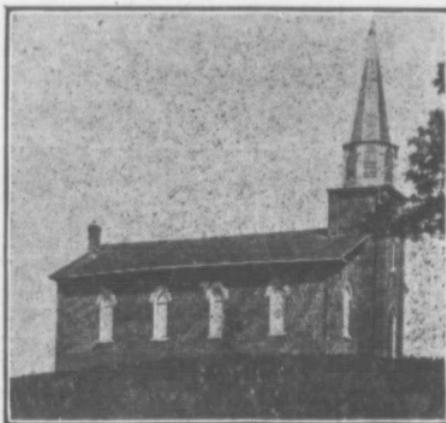


Brief Historical Sketch

... of ...

St. Mary Magdalene's Church

Lloydtown



To mark the occasion of the Seventy-fifth Anniversary of the Founding of the Church, held on Sunday and Monday, June 17th and 18th, 1917.

Rev. J. H. Colclough, B.A., B.D., Rector

Special Preachers { Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m., Ven. Archdeacon Perry, M.A.
Monday, 8 p.m., Ven. Archdeacon Cody, D.D.

Church Wardens—Mr. E. Sibree and Mr. H. P. Amey.

Lay Delegates to Synod—William M. Perry, Robert J. Hulse, Edward Marchant.

Wesley Clerk—Edward Marchant.

It is a matter of supreme gratification that we, as a congregation, in the good providence of God, are permitted to celebrate this year the seventy-fifth anniversary of the founding of St. Mary Magdalene's Church, Lloydtown. It has not been given to many parishes in this new country to celebrate such a unique event. Three-quarters of a century is a long time to look back. There are very few people living in this community that can say "I remember when the first sod was turned for the church in which we at present worship. One by one the early settlers, who made this place of worship their church home, have crossed the Great Divide, and with them have passed into oblivion the early reminiscences, which, most naturally, were associated with the early settlers of those hard pioneer days. We can well imagine that when this church was built the means of travel were not so up-to-date and abundant as they are in our day and generation. There were no roads such as we enjoy at the present time. The blazed trail through the forest was the only means by which the weary traveller was guided from place to place.

It is not an easy matter for one to gather all the details that one would desire, especially when it is known that the early records of the parish have been lost. However, access has been gained to a few facts that have been handed down to posterity from the pen of Rev. H. B. Osler, who had the honor of guiding the ship of the church in this locality during the hard and stormy times of church life in the early forties. Canon Osler, as he afterwards became, was rector of this parish for a continuous period of thirty-one years, and through all those long and trying years he worked most faithfully in season and out of season, endeavoring to build up the kingdom of Christ in this community. His name is always mentioned with love and reverence. Many times has the writer been told by individuals not only inside the parish, but also outside the parish, that they were baptized by the beloved first rector of Lloydtown Church.

The following facts have been gathered from an interesting little document written in February, 1900, by Canon Osler a short time before he died: "In 1837 Lloydtown was one of the headquarters of the people who took part in the Rebellion. The Government built a barracks for the accommodation of a company of volunteers under the command of Captain Armstrong. The Reverend Featherstone L. Osler, my brother, was then the minister of the church at Tecumseth, and from time to time came over to Lloydtown to give the services of

the church to the volunteers, who, for the most part, were members of this communion. In 1842 an acre of ground was given by T. W. Tyson, Esq., as a site for a church. The material was of mud brick, 50 x 30 feet. The church, though unfinished, was opened for divine service on the first day of January, 1843. In the fall of that year I was ordained and appointed missionary to the townships of King and Albion, and parts adjacent. At the Easter vestry meeting of 1853 the first movement was made toward building a parsonage. In 1854 I bought a piece of ground (four and one-half acres), adjoining the church lots, from W. T. Tyson, Esq., at one hundred dollars per acre; had the deed made out to the wardens, myself taking a mortgage on the same without interest, and on that lot was built the rectory, which cost (including fence, etc.) \$2,000. In 1859, on account of the difficulty of keeping the plaster on the outside of the church, the mud brick was hewn down to the stone foundation and built up with burnt brick. In 1869 the church was re-seated, the walls and ceiling papered, and the woodwork painted. In 1874 I was appointed to the rectory of York Mills. This, in brief, is the history of Lloydtown, which I trust you may find useful." This, in a nutshell, is the history of the church as handed down by one who was the leader in church activity in the days when history, so far as this parish is concerned, was being made.

It is quite in order to refer briefly to the beginning of things at the other points of the parish. We are also indebted to the late Canon Osler for the records regarding the work in Nobleton and Kettleby. "The services at Nobleton were commenced in 1845 in Mr. Robinson's barn, afterwards in his house, and was continued for about three years. In order to provide a regular Sunday service in the village of Bolton, and a fortnightly evening service at Sand Hill, I had to discontinue the Nobleton service. In 1850 a week-day service at noon once a month was held at the home of Mr. George Pringle, about a mile from Nobleton, with an average attendance of ten persons. In the fall of 1858 I obtained the use of the Orange Hall in Nobleton, holding a week-day service once a fortnight. In 1865 Sand Hill was joined to St. James', Albion. Relieved of Sand Hill, I was able to take a Sunday evening service at Nobleton. This service I continued until my appointment to York Mills. Easter returns for 1873 reported an average attendance of fifty persons." In the year 1889 the present substantial brick church was built, under the ministry of Rev. E. W. Sibbald.

Church services were attempted at Kettleby by Rev. H. B. Osler in 1847, but were unsuccessful. Canon Osler has written that "about 1845 Septimus Tyrwhitt, Esq., and his brother had arranged to build a memorial church. The bricks were burnt, plans were prepared; but the financial troubles of 1847 put a stop to the building. Some time after they deeded to the Synod of Toronto fifty acres of land as a site for a church burial ground, etc., the balance as an endowment. In February, 1866, a Friday evening service once a fortnight was commenced in a schoolhouse, known as Terry's schoolhouse. In 1867 a Friday evening service was commenced in Proctor's schoolhouse. Both these schoolhouses were about a mile from the village of Kettleby." The present stone church, which is reputed to be one of the finest country churches in the diocese, was built in the village of Kettleby in 1891. This church was also built during the ministry of Rev. E. W. Sibbald at a cost of \$3,000.

About the year 1907, when Rev. J. E. Gibson was rector, services were commenced on the eighth concession of King in what is known as Northview Orange Hall. These services have been continued regularly ever since and the attendance has justified its existence.

During a period of seventy-five years every congregation has its ups and downs, its bright days and dark days, and this parish has been no exception to the rule.

Following are the names of the clergy who have been rectors of this parish during its long and eventful history:

Rev. H. B. Osler,	-	-	1843-1874
Rev. E. Hoskin,	-	-	1874-1877
Rev. C. Dundas,	-	-	1877-1879
Rev. E. Soward,	-	-	1879-1881
Rev. H. D. Cooper,	-	-	1883-1885
Rev. E. W. Sibbald,	-	-	1887-1895
Rev. E. Etherington (locum tenens),			1893-94
Rev. T. L. Williams,	-	-	1895-1897
Rev. J. E. Hand,	-	-	1898-1900
Rev. C. J. Batstone,	-	-	1901-1902
Rev. R. Perdue,	-	-	1902-1904
Rev. H. C. Aylwin,	-	-	1904-1906
Rev. J. E. Gibson,	-	-	1906-1910
Rev. J. H. Colclough,	-	-	1911

There are several of the former rectors who have entered into rest, viz.: Rev. H. B. Osler, Rev. E. Hoskin, Rev. H. D. Cooper, and Rev. H. C. Aylwin.

About two years ago, owing to the apparent necessity of a new church, the present rector undertook to

test the feeling of the people on the subject by soliciting subscriptions, to be paid in five annual instalments. The response was so splendid that it was quite evident that the general feeling of the great majority of the people was in favor of a new church. About \$6,000 was subscribed. Several handsome memorials have been promised. Owing to the war the actual building operations have been postponed, but many of those who subscribed have paid in two instalments, and we trust that those who have not done so will take this opportunity of paying what has been promised in order that we may soon lay our plans for the erection of a new building. It must be evident to everyone that the condition of the church building at the present time is anything but a credit to a prosperous people. No better opportunity for "doing your bit" in church matters could be afforded than this anniversary. It is to be hoped that the interest in a new church building will increase and even though the shadows of war are upon us let us put our hand to the plough and not look back until we build a church that will honor God and be a credit to the Anglican cause in this community.

From this church there have gone forth men and women who are loyal church workers in many parishes throughout the Dominion. In some of the larger centres there are those who hold leading positions as laymen, who are glad to acknowledge that they received their early instruction in holy things in this church, where it is our privilege to worship Sunday by Sunday, and we are glad to state that this church has within its borders the only family that has given three brothers for the ministry in the ranks of Wycliffe College graduates, and it is with pleasure that we are able to announce that we have as our special preacher at the Sunday services the Venerable Archdeacon Perry, of St. Catharines, who was reared within the confines of this parish.

The church has ever stood for those evangelical truths that are essential to a church and that places an implicit trust in a Saviour who has shed His blood on Calvary's cross for a lost and dying world, and we trust that it will continue to stand for those truths until the end of the age.

In conclusion it is to be hoped that every member and adherent of this church will make a special effort to make this anniversary the most notable that has ever been held in connection with the Anglican cause in the township of King.