

1860—1920

—

CELEBRATING

The Diamond Jubilee

and

60th Anniversary

of

THE METHODIST CHURCH
BOBCAYGEON, ONT.



REV. J. M. WHYTE, Pastor

October 24th and 25th, and October 31st and Nov. 1st, 1920

OS
\$12.00

Officiary of the Church

Pastor:

Rev. J. M. Whyte.

Recording Steward and Treasurer:

George W. Taylor.

Assistant Stewards:

J. A. Purdy, G. H. Bick, Thomas T. Cosh, J. Britton, R. J. Hill,
H. R. Seymour, Chas. Krager, M. Justus, W. J. Thomas.

Trustee Board Representative:

I. Lewis.

Envelope Steward:

Mrs. H. V. Cosh.

Sunday School Superintendents:

Geo. W. Taylor, W. D. Ventress, Walter Pugh, J. Staples, C. Smithson

Assistants:

I. A. Purdy, Miss A. Mann.

Parsonage Trustee Board:

W. D. Ventress, H. V. Cosh, I. Lewis, G. W. Taylor, Jos. W. Southam,
William F. Harren, Robert Junkin.

Ladies' Aid, Bobcaygeon.

President, Mrs. John Van Valkenburg; Secretary, Mrs. S. Cosh.
Zion—Mrs. J. L. Beatty, Miss K. Ventress.

Women's Missionary Society, Bobcaygeon.

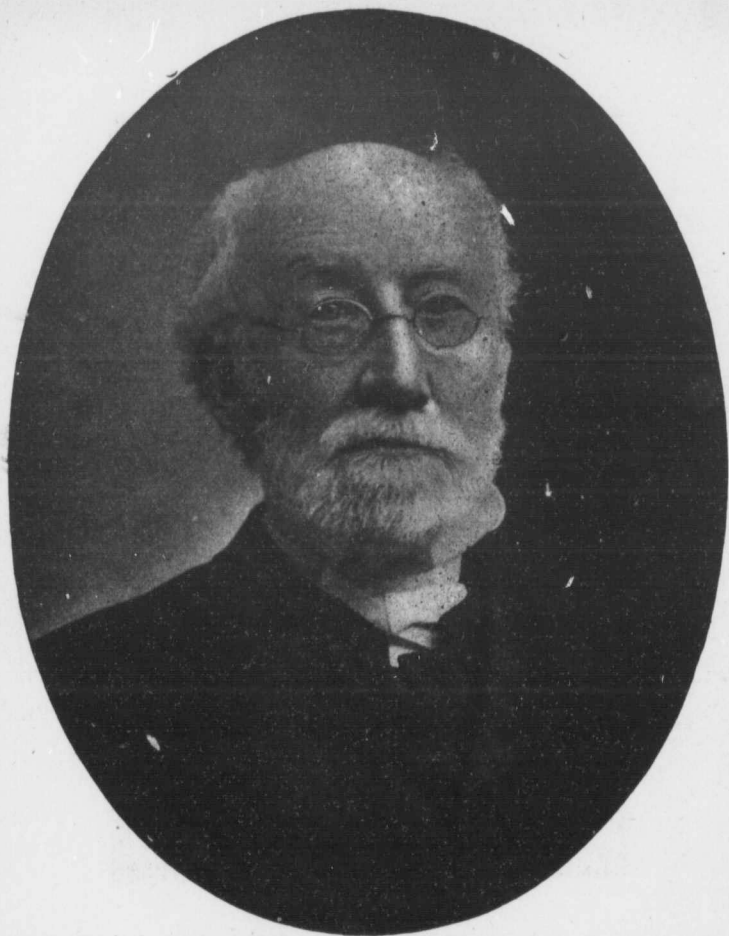
President, Mrs. (Rev.) J. M. Whyte; Secretary, Mrs. R. Pearson.

Mission Circle, Bobcaygeon.

President, Miss S. Wright; Secretary, Miss Clara Cosh.

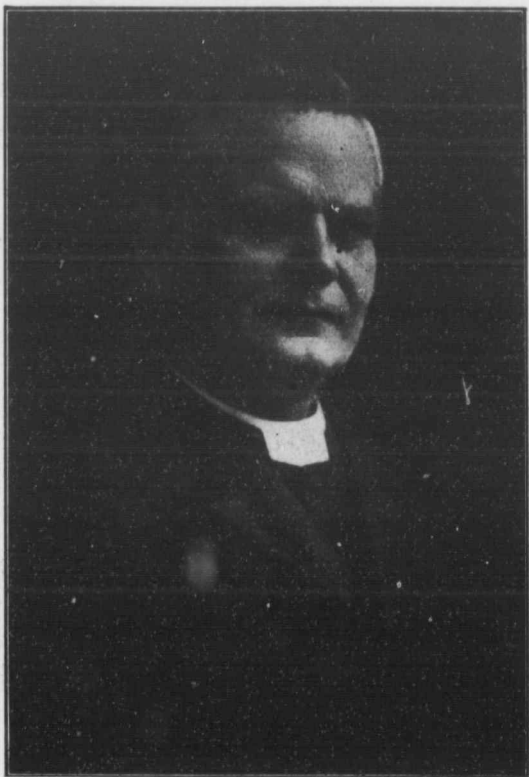
Trustee Board:

H. V. Cosh, Treasurer; Isaac Lewis, Secretary; Thos. Cosh,
Spurgeon Cosh, H. Seymour, J. A. Purdy, R. J. Hill,
G. W. Taylor, H. Roberts.



REV. ALBERT CARMAN, M.A., D.D., LL.D.

Bishop of the M. E. Church in Canada 1874-1883; General Superintendent of Methodist Church in Canada after the Union, from 1883 to 1914. One of Canada's foremost educationists.



REV. S. D. CHOWN, D.D., LL.D.

The present General Superintendent, who assumed office on the retirement of the late Dr. Carman.



REV. A. SUTHERLAND, D.D.

Who was General Secretary of the
Missionary Society from its inaugura-
tion until his death.



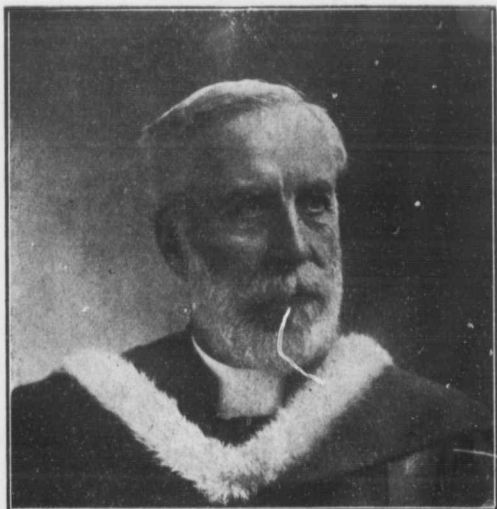
REV. JAMES ENDICOTT, B.A., D.D.

Present General Secretary of the For-
eign Department of the Methodist
Missionary Society.



REV. C. E. MANNING, D.D.

Present General Secretary of the
Home Department of the Methodist
Missionary Society.



REV. NATHANIEL BURWASH, M.A., S.T.D., LL.D., F.R.S.C.

Appointed first Professor of Theology in Victoria University in 1871, Chancellor 1887 to 1913 "One of the most successful and distinguished moulders of public opinion in the whole Dominion of Canada." Junior Pastor at Bobcaygeon in 1861.



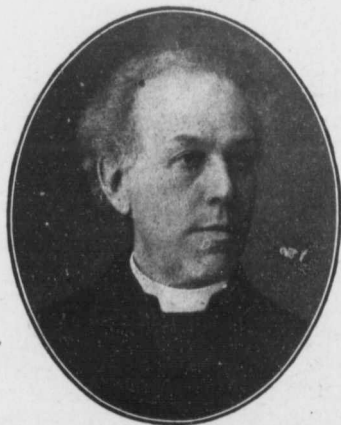
REV. W. J. H. SMYTH, B.A.
Junior Pastor in 1912, who preached on
October 24th, 1920.



REV. E. VAL. TILTON, B.D.,
Of Cambridge Street Church, Lindsay, who preached on October 31st, 1920.



REV. S. C. MOORE, B.A., B.D.
Of Bowmanville, Ont. A former Junior Pastor.



REV. (LIEUT.-COLONEL) W. H. ELMSLEY
A former much-beloved Pastor of the Church, 1881-1884.

BOBCAYGEON

The word "Bobcaygeon," which sounds somewhat strange to those who are not familiar with the history of the country, is derived from a French word, "Beaucage," meaning "Beautiful Wood." Some of the older settlers, however, maintain that it is an Indian name, and means "Rapids," or "Running Water."

One thing is certain, that the village is most picturesquely situated, and is one of the handiworks of God. It is surrounded by water, and nestles snugly in one corner of the Township of Verulam, in the County of Victoria.

It was laid out by Mr. Thos. Need, in the year 1832. Its present population is 1,000 inhabitants.

Of late years it has become famous as a Summer resort, and its beauties attract visitors from every part of Canada and the United States. They find the climate invigorating, its quietude restful, and the waters surrounding it supply them with an abundance of bass and lunge.

Methodism began here sixty-three years ago, and has played a prominent part in the religious life of the community.

Many tales of devout life and heroic conduct could be told of these early settlers, who, travelling miles on foot to Church, contributed to its support to the point of sacrifice.

Only three of the first members of Bobcaygeon Methodism survive. These are—Mrs. William Kennedy, of Lindsay; Mr. Samuel McLelland, of Sault Ste. Marie, and Mrs. Irvine Junkin, of Bobcaygeon, who, in her 81st year, is hale and hearty, and a faithful worshipper at the Church of her youth.

In addition to this trio of members, the following adherents of the early days are still associated with the Church—Wm. Robertson, J. T. Robinson, James Wright, and Mrs. James Humphries.

Throughout the years, amid changing conditions, the cause has persisted, and at present is in a flourishing condition, having one hundred and forty-seven families, and one hundred and twenty-nine members.

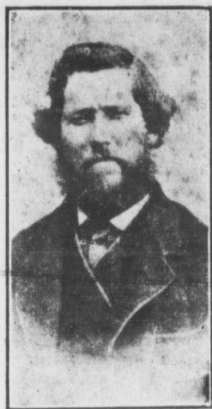
Among the officials who laid the early foundations were: Brothers Geo. Bick, first Recording Steward and Class Leader; Samuel McLelland, Superintendent of the Sunday School, and Thos. Taylor, first local preacher, and also a Class Leader.

Other early Class Leaders were: Brothers John McFetters, John Junkin, and William Cosh.

May the devotion of these men, who, with sparse opportunity, accomplished so much, inspire our hearts and ever be a challenge to us to hold high the torch which they threw to us from falling hands.

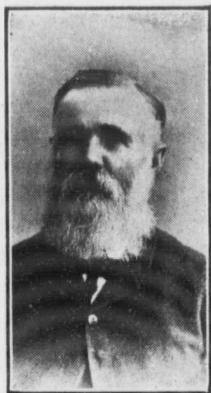
List of Pastors and Associate Pastors From 1857-1920.

	SUPERINTENDENT	JUNIOR PASTOR
1857	—Rev. James Ash—1 year.	N. Burwash
1858-61	—Revs. John Dowler	A. Hardie
	“ David Hardie	W. R. Barker
	“ Jos. Stinson	J. H. Robinson
	“ Geo. McNamara	W. Sloan
1867-8	—Revs. Wm. Sheridan	D. Winter
	“ Wm. Richardson	Robert Oliver
	“ W. R. Barker	S. McAuley
1874	—Revs. Robt. Godfrey	W. J. M. Craig
	“ John A. Jewell	W. T. Dyer
	“ John Smiley	
1881	—Revs. W. H. Elmsley	David Balfour
		D. S. Hinck
		J. W. Reid
	“ Geo. P. Steele	Geo. Carpenter
	“ A. Wilson	A. L. Adam
		G. Raley
		Geo. R. Clare
	“ R. Duke	A. W. Mallett
		Chas. Adams
		F. J. Anderson
	“ Thos. Snowdon	H. Magahey
		H. B. Rowe
		P. H. Neville
	“ S. Sing	G. Gardiner
	“ R. Mallott	E. Cook
	“ J. W. Shier	S. C. Moore
		A. H. Foster
		F. H. Howard
1900	—Revs. Gilbert Horton	E. W. Morgan
		A. W. Shaver
		E. W. Tink
	“ Jas. Batstone	A. Maunders
		J. E. Robeson
		G. C. R. McQuade
	“ C. H. Coon	J. O. Totton
		Cecil Mark
1907	—Revs. H. W. Foley	A. L. Phelps
		W. P. Woodger
		F. Staples
		Mr. Biggs
	“ W. E. Honey	R. E. Stewart
		W. J. H. Smyth
	“ W. H. Webber	O. L. Hargrave
		C. W. Wiley
	“ P. H. Neville	
	“ J. M. Whyte	



MR. THOS. TAYLOR

Who united with the Church in 1858,
was an original Trustee, Class Leader
and Steward in 1858, and made a local
preacher on February 8th, 1862.



MR GEO. BICK

Who united with the Church in 1858,
and was made Recording Steward the
same year, and was also a Class
Leader and Trustee.

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF CHURCH

The Bobcaygeon Circuit extended originally within four miles of Lindsay, and as far as Kinmount and Fenelon Falls.

* * *

The early records inform us that the first preacher was Rev. James Ash, who only remained one year.

The first services were held in the schoolhouses at Bobcaygeon, Dunsford, and elsewhere. It was then known as "Bobcaygeon Mission."

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Prominent among the early names appear the following:— McLelland, Taylor, McFeters, Rapley, Stephens, Jaeson, Carnaby Thurston, and his brothers and their wives, Agnew, Bick, Junkin, McFarland, Ingram, Martin, Sproule, Patterson, Kelly, Seymour.

* * *

The first Quarterly Board was held on May 15th, 1858. There were present Brother Geo. Bick, R.S.; Thos Taylor, Jas. Rapley, James Thurston.



REV. JOHN DOWLER

Pastor in 1858-61, and who was instrumental in erecting the Church.

The second pastor was Rev. John Dowler, who remained three years; a man greatly beloved, and under whose guidance the original church was erected by Thos. Taylor, assisted by Wm. Kennedy, Wm. Robinson, and Alex. Trotter. The latter two are eighty years of age, and hale and hearty. The building was frame, and was seated with plank and lighted with candles.

Mr. Dowler had associated with him Rev. N. Burwash, and under the guidance of these godly men the membership rose from 34 to 175.

Among the interesting reminiscences is the fact that Mr. Carnaby Thurston, who is now eighty-four years of age, was married by Mr. Dowler, and three of his children baptized by him.

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In the year 1874, during the pastor of Rev. Robert Godfrey, Dunsford was cut off, and Bobcaygeon became a circuit, consisting of the following appointments: Bobcaygeon, Bethel, Silver Lake, Lawsons, McFetters, Ventress, Ingrams, Bobcaygeon Road. Before the division there were two hundred and thirty-four members.

* * *

The Rev. Jno. A. Jewell became the Superintendent. He received a salary of \$700, and his assistant \$300.

About the year 1869, during the pastorate of Rev. Wm. Sheridan, the church was remodelled by placing the choir loft at the entrance of the church, erecting a pulpit, and putting in modern seats.

Mrs. Robert Wright, who is still a devoted servant of God, and a faithful member of the Church, sang in the choir on that occasion.

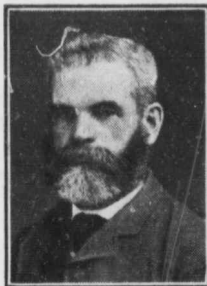
In the year 1879, under the pastorate of Rev. John Smiley, the church was again remodelled.

To accomplish this last, the Trustees decided to reorganize the Board and add to their number.

The Board as constituted was: Brothers Geo. Bick, Jno. Junkin, Wm. Wilson, Samuel McLelland, Wm. Cosh, Geo. J. Moore, John McFetters, Mathew Ingram, Wm. Ventress, Dr. McAmus, D. Allison, and Irvine Junkin.

* * *

The only surviving member is Samuel McLelland, who is in his eighty-ninth year.



MR. IRVINE JUNKIN

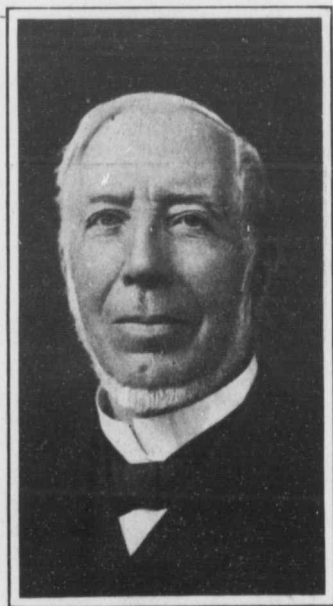
Who was made Secretary-Treasurer
of the Board on February 20, 1879.

A meeting of the Board was called, and it was decided to add fifteen feet to the church, raise the roof, build a porch, lath and plaster it, put in new frames and windows, and brick veneer it.

Brother Jno. Kennedy and his partner, Mr. Lancaster, tendered for the carpenter work for \$450, and Wm. Cosh tendered for the mason work for \$414. This included the materials.

* * *

They also decided to reseal the church, which was done by Messrs. Kennedy and Lancaster for \$125.



REV. WM BRIGGS, D.D., Book Steward, Emeritus.
Who preached the opening sermon in 1879 from Isaiah 59:13.

* * *

The spirit of these early men is shown by the following incident: "Brother Kennedy tore out the choir loft and changed it for \$20, and said he would do it for nothing rather than leave it where it was."

The total cost was upwards of \$1,000, and they had to borrow \$500, which was no easy task at that time.

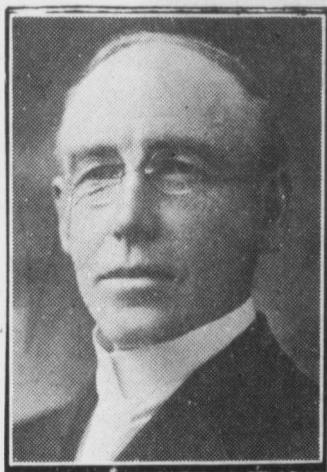
Those early servants of God made many heroic sacrifices to accomplish their tasks. Mr. and Mrs. Peter Warren used to walk, and carry a child, a distance of five miles to Quarterly Meeting, and many others did deeds equally heroic. It is recorded that a lady earned her \$4 by buying yarn and knitting in order to give that amount to the Church.

To secure the furnishings for the Church a series of house socials was arranged. In the records appears the following:

"That in order to avoid unseemly competition, only one kind of cake be allowed, in addition to bread and butter, or sandwiches. At the option of the giver of the social, both tea and coffee may be provided."

Another interesting item appears re furnishings:

"Scarlet must predominate on the pulpit trimmings, and the carpets must be some bright color."



REV. C. H. COON,
President of Bay of Quinte Conference, and Pastor of Queen St. Church, Lindsay.

* * *

The reopening services were held on the 10th and 17th of August, 1879, Dr. Jeffers officiating the first Sunday, and lecturing on Monday night. Dr. Briggs officiated the second Sunday, and "the dedicatory hymn" in the old "Canadian Anthem" book was sung.

The Parsonage

The main building was erected by Kennedy and Lancaster at a cost of \$748.

The kitchen was built during the pastorate of Rev. C. H. Coon. Carpenters, Hill Brothers, Mason, Vickers Cosh.

The Sunday School Room

Built during the pastorate of Rev. H. W. Foley, at a cost of \$1,200, of which amount Miss McCannus donated \$500. Carpenter, R. J. Hill. Mason, Vickers, Cosh. Roofed by Spurgeon Cosh.

A Third Remodelling

1918.—The present pastor assumed charge of this old historic Circuit.

The Church was reshingled and the interior renovated. The Cosh family donated a new pulpit in memory of their parents, William and Helen Cosh.

Mrs. Geo. Bick and family donated the centre pulpit chair in memory of the late Geo. Bick.

Messrs. H. Seymour, I. Lewis, and John Bick and sons, donated one of the side chairs, while the other was provided by Mrs. John Van Valkenburg and a number of ladies.

Other Donations

Communion Set—Miss Sarah Wright.

Collection plates—Miss Blanche Wright.

Chandeliers—Gordon and Clara Dunn.

Fixtures for Lights—R. J. Kelsey, Jas. Simpson.

Stands—Misses Hazel and Frances Hill.

Hymn Board—Misses Della and Nola Patterson.

The decorating was done by the Ladies' Aid.

The reopening services was conducted by the Pastor on July 28th, 1918, and on Monday, July 29th, he gave his lecture on "Life in the Lumber Camps."

The Church is now in a flourishing condition. Last year \$500 was raised for Missions, and \$3,600 for the National Campaign, and the minimum salary was paid in full.

A good congregation, splendid S. S., Mission Circle, W. M. S., and Ladies' Aid make the work very encouraging for the Pastor and people.

Our Church's success cannot be computed in financial terms alone. To the cause of justice in the earth we gave twenty-eight of our sons, twelve of whom paid the supreme measure of sacrifice. A suitable memorial tablet in our Church pays silent tribute to these brave lads who sleep afar. The Sunday School cherishes the memory of seven of her members who gave their lives in freedom's cause. Their names are inscribed in bronze maple leaves set in a shield in the Sunday School room.

"They being dead yet speak."

The Church is justly proud of the sons whom she gave to the Christian Ministry: Rev. John Roland Bick, B.A., of Wooler, Ont., grandson of the first Recording Steward, the late Geo. Bick, also Rev. W. J. D. Huston, L. Hopkins and John Green.

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The Choir

Any account of Bobcaygeon Methodism would be incomplete without mention of the choir. In the early history of the Church Mrs. R. Wright and those associated with her rendered excellent service.

Later the Cosh family, who were all gifted with musical talent, gave unstintedly to the service of song.

In the more modern days the choir has sustained its early reputation. The labors of all are appreciated, but special mention should be made of Miss Sarah Wright for her years of devoted service.

The personnel of the choir at present is:

Organist—Mrs. Howard Malcolm.

Sopranos—Miss Sarah Wright, Mrs. Geo. Turner, Mrs. Irwin, Mrs. R. Junkin, Mrs. W. Provost.

Altos—Mrs. R. Kelsey, Mrs. J. M. Whyte.

Bass—Thos. Cosh, Isaac Lewis (Leader)

Tenors—Spurgeon Cosh, Clayton Taylor (Leader).

A noble history such as ours is an incentive to diligence. God was with our fathers and blessed them. With John Wesley we can say "The best of all is God is with us." With His companionship we face bravely the larger tasks that lie before us.