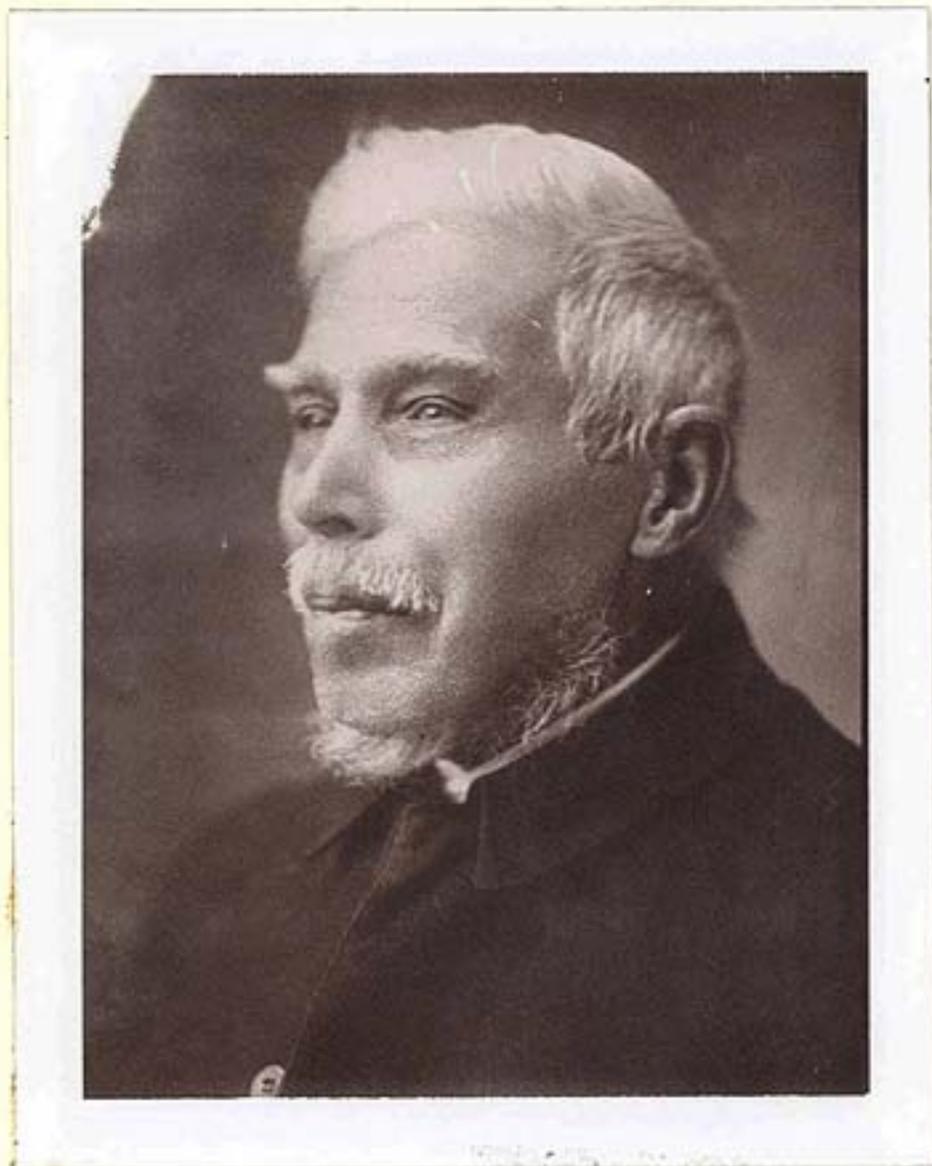


KETTLEBY METHODIST CHURCH



Rev. Peter Addison, ninety three years of age, returned October 15th, 1923, to his former pulpit in Kettleby Methodist Church to preach the sermon upon its fiftieth anniversary.

In the same ediface which he opened 50 years ago with 20 members of the same congregation Rev. Peter Addison preached the jubilee sermon in Kettleby Methodist Church. The veteran minister is more than ninety years of age, but his pulpit oratory is almost as brisk and vigorous as when he preached the inaugural sermon here in October 1873. And those who recall the first sermon stated that to-day's message was very similar in manner and matter to the first delivered in the little old church on the hillside.

Kettleby is one of the few places in York to which time has brought little change. It is as quiet and as peaceful and as picturesque as in the days when it was known as Tyrwhitt's Mills. The little village is typical of the stability of the rest of the village. The same faces fill the pews, many of the same faces have appeared every week for fifty years. Richard Burling was one of the original trustees; to-day he sat in the same seat he occupied in 1873. Other persons present who had attended the inaugural services were: Mayor J.M. Walton, Aurora, Henry Webb, J. W. Elliott, Mrs. J. Dutcher, Mrs. L. Mount, Mr. and Mrs. John Boadwin, Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred Heacock, Amy Davis, Rachel Hambleton Towns, Almeda Hambleton Norris, Emma Evans, Mr. and Mrs. M. Stephens, J. W. Tilson, Nelson Proctor and Rachel Hollingshead.



KETTLEBY UNITED CHURCH

The following is the history of the church, together with pictures, from the year 1853 to 1948, which has been taken from a booklet prepared for the 75th anniversary of the church:

Quote:

At a meeting of the Official Board of the Kettleby appointment, a committee consisting of Frank Curtis, Raymond Marshall and the minister was appointed to prepare a suitable booklet for the 75th anniversary of the building of the present church. Mr. Marshall agreed to take the pictures of the various groups and prepare them for publication. We will all agree that he did a good job, one that will be appreciated by all concerned.

Mr. Frank Curtis, who has both a good memory and a real faculty for digging up events of the long ago, secured all the data for the write up of the choir, and the story of the decorations of the church. He also secured other interesting data.

The main body of this sketch was written by Rev. C. E. Cragg and is taken from minutes of old records that date back 95 years; and from the story of Kettleby prepared and published by the late J. M. Walton. It has taken a great deal of time to collect all these facts, but as there has never been published a history of this congregation, and as we are commemorating the 75th anniversary of the building of the present United Church, the committee felt that no time or money should be spared in preparing a fairly detailed story of the congregation since its founding back in 1853. If we have omitted the name of any family that should deserve special mention,

KETTLEBY UNITED CHURCH

or any outstanding event of interest, we hereby express regret.

We are greatly pleased to announce that the Right Rev. George C. Pidgeon, M.A.D.D. of Bloor Street United Church, Toronto, has promised to come for Sunday evening, May 23rd. Dr. Pidgeon was the first Moderator of the United Church. Also, that the Rev. H. W. Strapp, one of our former and beloved pastors will preach Sunday evening, May 30th, 1948.

We are, yours very sincerely (Frank Curtis
(Raymond Marshall
(Charles E. Cragg

THE STORY OF THE KETTLEBY UNITED CHURCH 1853 - 1948



This year we are celebrating the 75th anniversary of the building of the United Church in Kettleby. But the story of the congregation extends back many years beyond that, back to the year 1853, when the Methodist Minister of Lloydtown began preaching services in the Temperance Hall now known as the United Church Hall. In those early days her membership was very few, and her congregations very small; because in the year 1856 the appropriation of the Kettleby appointment toward the

minister's salary was only 9 pounds, or about \$40.00 in our money. In those early days there were no roads worthy of the name, and the only safe mode of travel was by horseback. In the story of Canadian Methodism as written by the Rev. Mr. Playter, are several stories of these "saddle bag preachers" as they came to be called. Two or three of these had to do with the Rev. Dr. Peter Addison, whose name will always be associated with the history of our church.

At first the circuit consisted to Lloydtown, Monkman's, Rich Hill and Proctors. Kettleby was added about 1853; Brownsville, Schomberg and Tottenham about 1864. Because of the heavy driving and the very large area to cover, a junior minister was appointed. The first young man sent to the circuit was the Rev. Geo. Brown. The circuit agreed to pay him a salary of \$140.00 with \$100.00 for board and \$60.00 for horsekeep. From that date to 1878 Lloydtown circuit was served by two ministers, the one acted as Superintendent with headquarters in Lloydtown, the other a junior minister with his home at Kettleby.

In 1871 the Rev. Peter Addison was appointed Superintendent at Lloydtown, and with his coming the entire circuit took on new life. In the late fall of that year, a new church at Lloydtown was started and dedicated in the spring of 1872. That church was afterward sold to the Roman Catholics in Schomberg and their beautiful church was built of the material that came from the former Methodist church at Lloydtown.

In 1872 the congregation at Kettleby had grown to such an extent that there was a demand for a new church. In consequence a board of Trustees was appointed and they purchased a lot from Joseph and Charlotte Butler. The price paid was \$105.00. The original Trustees were Robert Tilson, (grandfather of Carmen Tilson) Isaac Gordon, Simeon Lemon, Robert Cook, James J. Spink, Oliver J. Smith, Charles Lloyd, Isaac Hollingshead, John H. Smith, John Lloyd, Benjamin Hollingshead, Richard Burling and Thomas Barradell. The church was dedicated the following year, -May 1873. The original deed, now at the parsonage, bears the date Nov. 5th, 1876. It might be of interest to many to state that four people still living,

attended the dedication of the church 75 years ago. They are -

J. Watson Elliott and his sister
Jennie Bolton
Mrs. J. Dutcher
Mrs. Louis Mount

With the building of the new church a great deal of enthusiasm was displayed. This is indicated in the growth of the Sunday School, in the larger support of the minister's salary and especially in the increase in membership.

One interesting item is recorded in the records of 1874. At that time there were five Methodist bodies in Upper Canada -

The New Connexion,
Wesleyan,
Primitive,
Bible Christian
Methodist Episcopal

The leaders of these various groups, except the Methodist Episcopal, decided to unite and form one Methodist Church.

In the minutes of the Lloydtown circuit the official board voted unanimously in favor of the union. The new church came to be known as the Canadian Methodist Church. The larger union was effected in 1883 when the Methodist Episcopal came in and formed the Methodist Church of Canada.

In 1878 the circuit of Lloydtown became divided forming three circuits: Tottenham, Schomberg and Lloydtown. The Lloydtown circuit was divided consisting of Lloydtown, Proctors and Kettleby appointments. Pottageville first appears in the records in 1884. The services were held in the Emmanuel Church, now Pottageville, with Wm. Dove as steward (Arnold Dove's grandfather) and John Proctor (grandfather of Stanley Proctor) as class leader.

In 1894 the Glenville appointment was transferred from Holland Landing to Lloydtown. What a drive that was from Lloydtown to Glenville on a bad winter's morning - for service was at 11:00 a.m. at Glenville.

In 1898 an interesting event took place. Miss Jennie Elliott belonging to one of the oldest and most highly respected families in the district, offered herself for work under the auspices of the W.M.S. and became a missionary among the Indians at Port Simpson in British Columbia. She remained in this work until her marriage to the late Mr. Bolton. Today she is living in Aurora with her brother Watson Elliott. It might be of interest to state that Watson never belonged to any other Sunday School or Church, but the one at Kettleby, until his removal to Aurora in January 1946.

In 1902 the Kettleby circuit was formed consisting of Kettleby, Pottageville, Glenville and Snowball appointments. Snowball up to this time had formed part of the King circuit.

The first minister of the newly formed circuit was the Rev. J.B. Freebury. He had been stationed at Lloydtown for one year. He was a man apparently of very devout spirit, a fine preacher, and very conscientious in his work. Some of the older members at Pottageville will tell you of how this man, walked on at least two occasions from Lloydtown to Pottageville, when the roads were so drifted a horse could not get through, so that the few who came out would not be disappointed - that such a spirit of devotion and consecration might rest upon everyone of us to-day.

One of the first duties of the officials at Kettleby was to provide a house for their minister. A committee consisting of John T. Curtis (father of Frank Curtis), Artemus Hambleton, John Jarvis (father of John Jarvis, Jr.) Milton Andrews, E. Webster, J. N. Doan and E. W. Love were appointed a parsonage committee, and were instructed to secure a suitable house for their minister; but were instructed not to pay more than \$50.00 rent per annum without consulting the board. What a tremendous change in rents from that early day to this!

The first house secured was one back of the mill, occupied to-day by Mr. and Mrs. Snider. In April 1903 the Trustee Board of Proctor's church, decided unanimously to ask Conference for permission to sell the land on which their church stood, and to move the church to Kettleby for a parsonage. Evidently the conference disapproved, for on June 15th, the trustees met and decided to sell the church by tender, and to apply the proceeds to the parsonage fund. The sale price was \$35.00.

About this time, July 5th, the parsonage committee decided to buy the Wilkinson's property for \$600.00. Between the house owned by Mr. Wilkinson and the one now occupied by Mr. William Wilson stood a carriage shop, the property of Mr. Rogers. This was purchased for \$150.00. It was afterward moved to the rear of the lot by Mr. Brown for \$8.00 and for years served as a horse stable and drive house. It was finally torn down and the present garage built.

Before the minister moved in, the house was painted, papered, a new furnace installed, and made into a very comfortable house. Many of our people will wonder how so small a group of people could meet so heavy an expense. We should bear in mind that Glenville brought her share of the value of the parsonage at Holland Landing, Snowball her share from King parsonage, Kettleby and Pottageville their share of the sale of the Lloydtown parsonage after the mortgage was paid. In addition there was the proceeds of the sale of the Proctor's Church. The balance was paid by subscriptions from the four appointments. The last payment on the first parsonage was made in 1911.

The first parsonage was burned in January 1928, and on February 21st a committee was appointed by the Official Board to rebuild. The committee consisted of J. W. Tilson, J. A. Marshall, H. Webb, C. Hunt, Cecil Wray, J. Webster, John Jarvis and Hudson Bowman. Of the above committee only three are living - Cecil Wray, John Jarvis and Hudson Bowman.

At the first meeting of the committee a contract was let to Mr. Burnel Graham of Schomberg to build the new parsonage. Great credit must be given to the building committee, to the minister, the Rev, J. S. Stevenson and Mrs. Stevenson, to the builder and to all who had a share, for the very comfortable and lovely house they erected. And now that a bathroom has been installed, the house painted outside and decorated on the inside, we have one of the most comfortable and attractive rural parsonages in the conference.

The balance of this story will be told under certain headings - the Sunday School - Officials - Revivals - the Choir - Women's work, the Young People's work and church improvements.

LOCAL PREACHERS

Such a booklet as this reaching back, as it does for over 90 years would hardly be complete without some reference to local preachers, a group of laymen who rendered untold service to the Methodist church in the early days. In those early days, people were very poor, mode of travel difficult, and so churches were built to serve communities - we, in this day of the automobile think these churches were altogether too near each other. Because of the lack both of ordained ministers and the money to support them, local preachers were used to fill the gap. Not only did they fill in, but from these came many an ordained minister as this brief sketch will show.

We wish space would permit us to print the full list of local preachers on the Lloydtown and Kettleby charge. That is not possible. What we intend to do, is to give the list of local preachers who afterward became ordained ministers; as well as those who served Kettleby after it became head of the circuit. Preceding each name is the date when each was recommended as a candidate for the ministry: 1865 - John Brown; 1866 - W. L. Holmes, who was afterwards President of the Toronto Conference, 1871 - Thomas Snowden, afterwards President of the Bay of Quinte Conference, 1873 - George Walker, 1873 - Samuel Hastings and John Walls, 1899 - W. A. Potter, afterwards Professor of Oriental languages in Victoria College (his daughter is married to Mr. Cragg's nephew, the Rev. C. E. J. Cragg of Hamilton), 1902 - Henry Moore. The last two taught at Jamieson School - S.S.#6. Since Kettleby circuit was formed the following served in this capacity: John F. Curtis, Artemus Hambleton, J. N. Doan, E. W. Love and W. Agnew. In recent years, Ambrose Archibald, Owen Barr and Ray Marshall.

Each year at the May Official Board meeting each local preacher came up for review and the following questions were asked: has this man competent ability as a local preacher, has he been faithful in keeping his appointments, is there anything against his moral or religious character? In 1890 one of the local preachers was dropped, because he hadn't been faithful in keeping his appointments, and was reinstated when he explained that his wife had been seriously ill.

OFFICERS

Very closely associated with the local preachers were the class leaders. Forty or fifty year ago, when one joined the church they were placed in a class, and it was the duty of the class leader to keep an oversight of the new members and to inquire from time to time as to their growth in grace. The first class leader of Kettleby appointment was Robert Cook, the great grandfather of Murray Cook and Gordon Cook - the later one of the newly elected stewards of Kettleby. Among the last of this noble body of men were the Hambleton brothers, Artemus and Alfred. This institution ceased to function about 1907.

About that time society representatives were appointed. These continued to function until the United Church came into being. At that time Elders were appointed. No class of laymen have ever been entrusted with greater responsibility. They are supposed to visit the sick and shut-ins, to distribute the communion cards, and to assist the ministers in the administration of the Lord's Supper. Our present board of Elders are: Mrs. J. Archibald, Harry Burns, John Crichton, Roy Geer, S. J. Heacock, Mrs. S. J. Heacock, Wm. Hodgson, Anson McCluskie and Ray Marshall (the clerk). So in the course of years, one institution passes giving place to another.

Another group of laymen too frequently omitted are the recording secretaries of a circuit; and yet these men are so essential to the efficient working of a circuit.

We could go back 95 years ago when Dr. Bull was recording Steward. He was a beautiful penman, kept an excellent record, and acted for nearly 15 years. We skip the years and come down to 1902. Since then the recording stewards have been E. W. Love, Elias Hilborn, J. A. Marshall (from 1912 to his death in 1942). He was a beautiful penman. In the margin dated 1934 is this note from the Presbytery record committee: "This record reflects neatness and accuracy". In the minutes of the Official Board, following his death, is a very fine worded resolution regarding the long and efficient service rendered by Mr. Marshall; among other clauses is this: "He was a good man and true". Mr. Marshall was followed by his son, Ray. He, in turn by Wm. Hodgson, and the present secretary William Davison.

REVIVALS

Methodism was born in a great revival, and in the early days was made strong because of the protracted meetings. The growth of Methodism at Kettleby was due in no small measure to the great revival of the early days.

The first of these outstanding revivals was held in the fall of 1830, during the pastorate of the Rev. Robt. McCullough. At the August meeting in 1830, the minister suggested that a four day meeting be held at Lloydtown; that people bring their lunches, and that they spend the four days waiting upon God for a mighty outpouring of his spirit. Shortly afterward the revival broke out at Kettleby, and in November 1830, 38 were received into the church on trial for three months.

The second revival of note was in 1887, when the Rev. N. E. Scott was minister. This revival was in January and part of February. At the May quarterly meeting over 70 were received on trial.

The third of these outstanding revivals was in 1907, during the pastorate of Rev. Thomas Leonard. That year 41 were added to the roll of the church. No greater proof can be found of the value of these revivals than in these old records and their immediate effect upon the church.

The last of these large increases in Church members was in the fall of 1945, when following a preparatory class extending over six weeks, and a very intensive visiting campaign, 37 were received in November. It may be of interest to note that from that date to this, one or more have been received at this Kettleby appointment at every communion service, making a total of 63 during the past two and one half years, and a total on the circuit of 149.

I M P R O V E M E N T S

What changes take place in 75 years! That is true of homes, schools, state and church. Great changes have taken place in the church at Kettleby. Note the change in the lighting system. We have no authentic record, but in as much as candles were in general use 70 or 80 years ago, we feel confident that the first system of lighting must have been candles. Then came the coal oil lamps. What an improvement these were. In 1900 a system of gas was introduced. The gas was manufactured at the pond. From the plant ran the main line along the side of the road. From the main line ran short lines connecting the various houses and places served by it. At the main line were taps to lessen or increase the power of the light. Many of the people who read this will recall how frequently the boys turned down the power during the service in the church, and how Mr. Love, who was in charge of the plant would go down to see what was wrong, then the boys would turn on the power again. In 1912 the aladdin lamps were introduced. These were quite unsatisfactory because if turned at all high the lamps would smoke and the caretaker would have to disturb the service to have them adjusted. In 1929 the electric lights were installed.

Four times at least the church has been decorated - in 1916 by Mr. Travis; 1923 by Ed. Williams; 1929 by Burnel Graham and in 1947 by Mr. Heard.

In 1918 the furnace was installed by Mr. Ough; in 1922 the new matting secured, in 1924 the choir loft enlarged, in 1929 new ceiling put on, electric lights installed, and the new windows purchased. That occasion must have created almost as much enthusiasm as the building of a new church. In 1933 the sheds were reshingled and repaired, and the garage built at the parsonage. In 1947 the church was decorated, painted on the outside and reshingled. And so each minister makes a contribution, and each generation improves upon the past, and we move on to a better day.