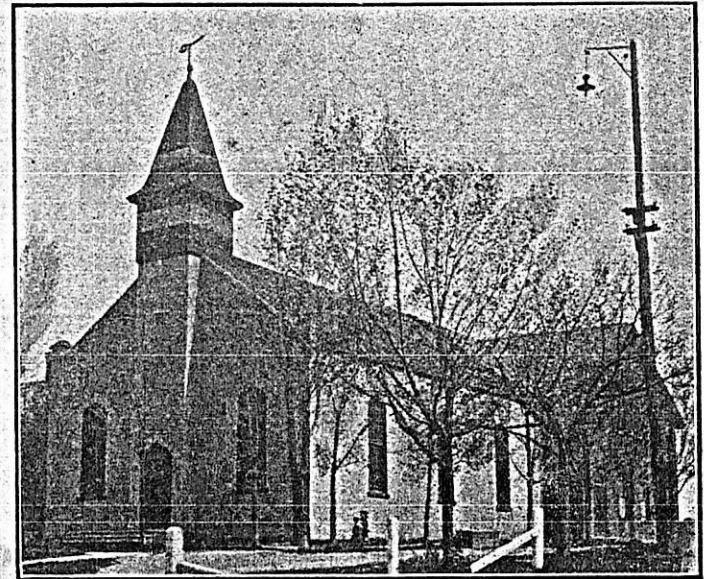


The History of the Presbyterian Church Lakefield

—BY—

REV. T. B. MCCORKINDALE, M. A.

1913



The Presbyterian Church, Lakefield

"I will lay thy stones with fair colours, and lay thy foundations with sapphires. And I will make thy windows of agates, and thy gates of carbuncles, and all thy borders of pleasant stones. And all thy children shall be taught of the Lord; and great shall be the peace of thy children. In righteousness shalt thou be established; thou shalt be far from oppression: for thou shalt not fear; and from terror: for it shall not come near thee."



Rev. T. B. McCorkindale, M. A.

HISTORY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, LAKEFIELD

THE issue by the managers of the Fiftieth Annual Report of the congregation suggests to the writer the desirability of recalling its past history. The father of the church was the Rev. John M. Roger, minister of St. Paul's Church, Peterborough. He gathered a congregation that met in a church situated near the intersection of the Ninth Line of Smith with the road to Selwyn and Buckhorn. The first reference to the church in the Presbytery minutes is under date Oct. 22, 1861, where it bears the name of Smith.

The present substantial stone church in the Village of Lakefield was opened for public worship early in 1863. The mason work was intrusted to the late Mr. John Richardson, whose handiwork still endures, and is likely to endure for many years to come. Mr. Jonathan Griffin was the carpenter in charge; but the church has been entirely re-seated since his day. The first pulpit, which unfortunately no longer exists, was carved by Mr. William Adams, who is still with us. The site of the church was a gift from the late Colonel Samuel Strickland; and at the social meeting held in connection with its opening, he also gave a site for the manse. On the opening Sunday the congregation requested the services of the choir of St. Paul's Church, Peterborough, of which Mr. R. Graham, for forty-eight years a member of the Lakefield Church, and for twenty-nine years an honoured elder, was at that time leader. Mr. M. F. Sanderson, who, like Mr. Graham is still hale and hearty, drove the choir from Peterborough to Lakefield and back. But while these two gentlemen still survive, the most of those who saw that auspicious day have joined the Church Triumphant. There still remain Mrs. George Johnson, Mrs. Joseph Nelson, Mrs. Thomas Hendren, Mrs. Peter Baptie, Mr. William Adams, Mr. A. Fairbairn and Mr. James Baptie; also Mrs. Coleman Blewett of North Smith, who remembers that the anthem rendered on the occasion was "Lead me to the Rock that is higher than I."

On May 16th, 1865, the pastoral relation between Mr. Rogers and the church in Lakefield was dissolved by direction of the Presbytery, Mr. Rogers' labors being confined to Peterborough, and Lakefield united to Warsaw. After a vacancy in the pastorate of about ten months, the Rev. James Thom was elected to the vacant charge, the call being signed by 51 members and 10 adherents, and inducted on May 8th, 1866. In January, 1867, Warsaw was disjoined from Lakefield, and Mr. Thom was directed to take charge of the congregations at

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North Smith, on the Twelfth Line, to which the church on the Ninth Line had been transferred, and Harvey. On Sept. 7th, 1869, Mr. Thom accepted a call to Enniskillen. He afterwards joined the Methodist Church.

The next minister of Lakefield and North Smith was the Rev. Nathaniel Clark, inducted to the united charge on March 17th, 1871. The Clerk of the Presbytery of Peterborough, the Rev. D. A. Thomson, of Hastings, intimately acquainted with Mr. Clark, describes him as "an Israelite indeed, a true man, a faithful preacher and pastor, and a genial co-Presbyter."

Mr. Clark, who resigned the charge after fourteen years of faithful service, was succeeded by the Rev. John McEwen, inducted in 1885, whose name is still remembered with love by many in the congregation. Mr. McEwen was known far beyond the bounds of his Presbytery as a stalwart theologian, and an enthusiast in Sabbath School work. In 1894 he resigned his charge to devote himself entirely to the work he loved, under the Provincial Sunday School Association for Ontario. Strangely enough Mr. McEwen died in the village to which he had returned on a visit. He rests, where possibly he most wished to rest, in the Lakefield cemetery, among the people he loved and faithfully served nine years. "He was a good man," says our Presbytery Clerk of him, "and full of faith and the Holy Ghost."

The Rev. A. C. Reeves, B. A., succeeded Mr. McEwen. Mr. Reeves was inducted to this charge on Oct. 2nd, 1894. He was transferred to Campbellford in 1900; and is now at Moose Jaw, Sask. It was during his ministry that the church was re-seated and the Sunday School room added to the church buildings, at a cost of about \$4,000. The committee charged with the superintendence of this important work consisted of Mr. E. A. Tanner, Mr. R. Braden, Mr. W. H. Casement, Mr. T. J. Cullen and Mr. A. Fairbairn, chairman. Mr. Thomson describes Mr. Reeves as a splendid type of man, full of energy, of great preaching ability, and possessed of openness of character.

The Rev. C. A. Campbell, B. A., succeeded Mr. Reeves, being inducted to the charge May 24th, 1900. The Rev. Mr. McEwen, who had known Mr. Campbell from his earliest years, was present at the ordination, and said he could only express himself in regard to the young minister in the words of St. Paul to Timothy, in 2 Timothy, 1: 3-6. Of Mr. Campbell, who resigned in 1906 to take up work in the North-west where he still labors, the kindly Presbytery Clerk says:—"He was an

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excellent preacher, of a practical turn, add his work during the temperance campaign in Lakefield, showed him a man of mettle."

The Rev. S. S. Burns, B.A., called from Stirling, in the Presbytery of Kingston, succeeded Mr. Campbell, being inducted to the charge in Sept. 1906. After four years of earnest and faithful labour, Mr. Burns resigned to take up post-graduate work. He entered himself as a student in the famous Theological School at Princeton, N. J., where he took the degree of B.D. He is now minister of St. John's Church, Brockville, Ont., where his many friends in Lakefield wish him a successful and happy ministry.

Mr. Burns was succeeded by the writer, the Rev. T. B. McCorkindale, M. A., who was appointed to the charge in January, 1911, and inducted on July 21st, of the same year.

The Manse was finished in 1873. The Building Committee consisted of Mr. Robert Graham, Mr. George Johnson and Mr. Joseph Nelson. These gentlemen were so successful in raising money that its total cost, \$2,030, was liquidated on the day it was completed.

Appended is a list of the names of the ministers who have served the church, with the date of their induction:—

- Rev. John M. Roger, minister from 1861 to 1865.
- Rev. James Thom, inducted 1866.
- Rev. Nathaniel Clark, inducted 1871.
- Rev. John McEwen, inducted 1885.
- Rev. A. C. Reeves, B. A., inducted 1894.
- Rev. C. A. Campbell, B. A., inducted 1900.
- Rev. S. S. Burns, B. A., inducted 1906.
- Rev. T. B. McCorkindale, M. A., 1911.

The following list contains the names of the Elders in office at the opening of the church:—Mr. A. Braden, Mr. Thomas Casement, Mr. Frank Sanderson, Mr. Edward Sanderson, Mr. Frank Freeborn, Mr. Alex. Preston, Mr. John Graham.

Mr. Robt. Knox was an active member of the Building Committee of the church.

THE SESSION

Moderator—Rev. T. B. McCorkindale.

Session Clerk—Mr. A. Fairbairn, admitted 1888.

Mr. J. S. Fitzgerald, admitted 1877; Mr. R. Graham, admitted 1888; Mr. T. J. Cullen, admitted 1898; Mr. A. J. Kidd, admitted 1907; Mr. George Newbury, admitted 1907.

Mr. Fairbairn has been Session Clerk since 1894.

HISTORY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, LAKEFIELD

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

A. E. Kennedy, chairman; J. H. Chant, treasurer; F. J. Burgess, secretary; W. Blewett, James Murdoch, Thompson Braden, A. J. Young, Hugh Sutton and J. H. Cummings.

COMMUNION ROLL

The names on the Communion Roll number 197. :

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

Superintendent—Mr. A. J. Kidd.

Secretary—Mr. Alex. Fraser.

Librarian—Mr. Wellie Quinn.

Teachers—Miss Duff, Miss Matheson, Miss Kidd, Miss Lola Baptie, Miss McCorkindale, Miss Lelia Burgess, Mrs. Quinn, Mr. A. E. Kennedy, Mr. H. Sutton.

There are 70 names on the roll, and the average attendance during 1912 was 51.

YOUNG PEOPLES' SOCIETY

Hon. President—The Minister.

President—Mr. A. Clarke.

1st Vice-President—Miss Hunter.

2nd Vice-President—Mr. S. Cullen.

Secretary—Miss Murdoch.

Treasurer—Mr. W. Fairbairn.

Miss Burgess, Miss Thomson, Mr. S. P. Anderson and Mr. C. McWilliams.

Following is the programme of the society for 1913 :

Monday, January 20—"A Night wi' Burns." Arranged by Mr. S. P. Anderson. Chairman, Mr. Charles Thomson.

Monday, February 3—"Livingstone Centennial." Arranged by Miss Jean Thomson. Chairman, Mr. A. E. Kennedy.

Monday, February 17—"Social Evening." Our guests, St. Andrew's Y.P.S., Peterboro. Arranged by Miss Murdoch. Chairman, Rev. T. B. McCorkindale.

Monday, March 3—Debate, "Country Life vs. City Life." Mr. A. Clarke and Mr. W. Fairbairn. Chairman, Miss Duff.

Monday, March 17—"Irish Evening." Arranged by Mr. J. Murdoch. Chairman, Mr. W. H. Casement.

Monday, March 31—"Canadian Evening." Arranged by Miss Burgess. Chairman, Dr. M. R. Graham.

Monday, April 14—"Social Evening." Chairman, Rev. T. B. McCorkindale.

HISTORY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, LAKEFIELD

THE CHOIR

Following are the members of the choir :—

Leader—Miss Nelson.

Organist—Miss Hunter.

Soprano—Mrs. Bailey, Miss Kidd, Miss Miller, Miss Sanderson, Miss Fairbairn, Miss Knox, Miss Beavis, Miss E. Vincent, Miss L. Burgess, Miss B. Moore.

Alto—Miss A. Moore.

Tenor—Mr. R. Graham, Mr. J. Murdoch, Mr. A. C. Carveth.

Bass—Mr. Allen Clarke, Mr. W. Fairbairn, Mr. S. P. Anderson.

WOMENS' FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY

President—Mrs. T. Hendren.

1st Vice-President—Mrs. P. Baptie.

2nd Vice-President—Mrs. R. Carter.

Secretary—Mrs. F. J. Burgess.

Treasurer—Mrs. J. H. Chant.

Organist—Mrs. B. Hunter.

Members—Mrs. Dr. J. R. Fraser, Mrs. McCorkindale, Mrs. J. Murdoch, Mrs. L. B. Christie, Mrs. T. Cullen, Mrs. A. T. Fleming, Mrs. J. Walton, Mrs. J. Todd, Mrs. W. Baptie, Miss Duff.

The total amount raised during the past year was \$144.35.

HOME MISSION AUXILIARY

President—Mrs. J. W. Ridpath.

Vice-President—Miss Preston.

Secretary—Mrs. W. J. Baptie.

Treasurer—Miss McKibbon.

Pioneer Secretary-Treasurer—Miss N. Nelson.

Members—Mrs. C. Thomson, Mrs. Geo. Newbury, Miss F. Ray, Miss S. Preston, Miss Morrison, Miss Adams, Miss Clara Kidd.

The total amount raised during the past year was \$163.69.

NORTH SMITH

Elders—Mr. Jas. Isbister, admitted 1911; Mr. Gordon Fitzgerald, admitted 1911.

Board of Management—Mr. Gordon Fitzgerald, chairman; Mr. Robert Borland, treasurer; Messrs. Bruce Fitzgerald, M. F. Sanderson, E. Preston, J. Isbister.

HISTORY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, LAKEFIELD

JUBILEE SERVICES

Jubilee Services were held on Sunday, February 9th, when the Rev. Robt. Pogue, Minister of St. Paul's Church, Peterborough, preached to a large and appreciative congregation.

On Monday February 10th, a social meeting of the congregation was held in the Sunday School room, when congratulatory addresses were given by the ministers in the village, and several brethren of the Presbytery.

The following are the names of the ladies and gentlemen who assisted the choir at the Jubilee Services on Sunday, February 9th :

Soprano—Miss Sanderson, Mrs. O. Northey, Miss L. Baptie, Mrs. R. Davidson, Mrs. H. Sutton.

Alto—Mrs. E. Bowen, Mrs. W. J. Baptie.

Tenor—Mr. B. Kidd.

Bass—Mr. J. Kidd, Mr. W. Madill, Mr. W. M. Graham, Mr. W. Blewett.

We are indebted to Mr. E. B. Murdoch for the photo of the church.

POST SCRIPT

Ere these words will be read our Jubilee Services of praise and thanksgiving will be past. During these services the faithful men who laid the foundations both of our church and congregation have been much in our mind. It is well for us to recall their labours, their piety, their faith—a faith that really overcame mountains. We live in less strenuous times. Let us seek to emulate them in their daring, in their zeal for God, and in their fidelity to the great principles for which Presbyterianism stands. So shall we be worthy of them, and of the heritage unto which we have entered.