

for a location. It held part of his orchard and the trees, which were not in the way of building were left standing. The congregation set to work, and in 1854 the church was dedicated. It was a small white frame structure with a square tower, and a shivering tin steeple, with a weather vane on top.

Its musical bell called them to worship, or in more solemn tones tolled to announce the passing of one of its members. A door on either side of the small hall, led into the body of the church. The stoves stood just inside these doors, with seats on three sides of them. Two narrow aisles led to the altar which was situated at the side farthest from the door. The pulpit was formed of three wooden pedestals, painted to represent marble and joined by an metal bar. Their tops were covered with a red cloth with a large tassel at each corner. On each side of the altar platform, were three seats, facing the minister, which were used by the officials, and for the primary classes, of the Sunday school. The choir chancel was a large box like affair, at the end of the church, opposite the altar, facing the minister. It was approached by three steps, and had seats on three sides, for the singers, while the tiny organ occupied the fourth side.

The collection was gathered in cloth sacks with tassels on the bottom, fastened to long poles so the ushers could reach the worshipers in the far ends of the pews, without leaving the aisle or surrendering their hold on the money vessels.

Some of the old records have been destroyed, so that a complete list of the early ministers are not obtainable. The first man who occupied the pulpit, was an eccentric individual.



who called himself the "Wild Irishman" The Rev. Mr. Ross. Among others were Revs. Shortt, Dockum, Yokum, Draper, called the singing parson, Locke, Bartram, Davis, Critchton, and J. N. Elliott. The first Sunday School superintendent, was Squire John Cook, who occupied the office for 28 years. The first choir leader was John Goder, who also supervised the singing in the Sunday school. The first organist was Mrs. Joshua Goder. And one of the first teachers was W. J. Kilpatrick. The church was visited quarterly by a presiding elder, who administered the sacrament. Prominent among them was Elders, Loundsbury, and Bristol. The London Conference met on one occasion in the little church, and it was also honored by a visit from "Bishop Carman."

In the late 70's the congregation had so completely outgrown the accommodation afforded by the white church, that additional room was absolute necessary. The resident minister at that time was the Rev. J. N. Elliott a very brilliant preacher, who imbued his congregation, with much of his own enthusiasm and before long the contract for a \$13,000 church was awarded James Crane. The church property was large enough to accommodate the new building without disturbing the old church, so the board fence which surrounded the lot was removed, and the remaining apple trees cut down to make way for the foundation of the new church.

On Dominion Day 1878 the corner stone was laid by Mrs. William Clunas (Elizabeth Hemingway) daughter of one of the pioneer members, Peter Hemingway. On Jan. 16<sup>th</sup> 1879 the church was dedicated by Rev. Dr. Dves of Toronto. The services lasted nearly all day. It was built of red brick, with a bell tower and a high steeple, which could be seen for miles, and which later proved its enduring.