

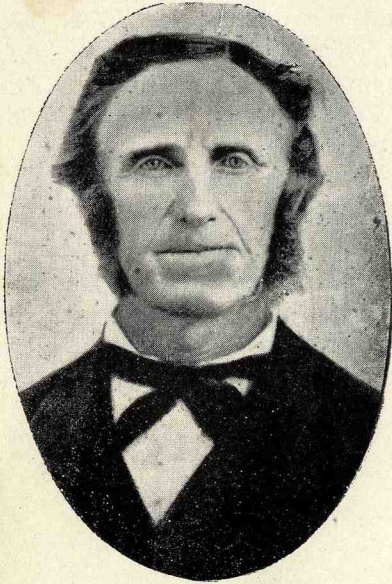


Rev. A. McD. Haig, B. A.



The late Rev. A. L. Carr.

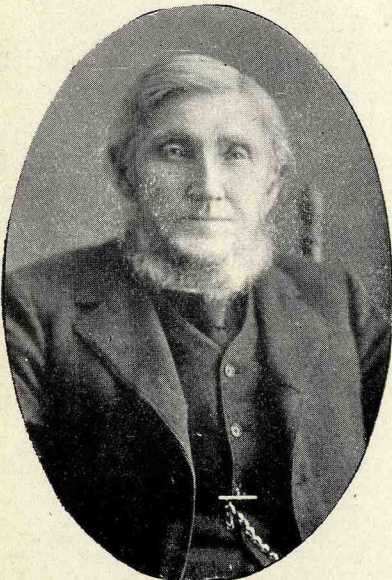
First Deacons' Court  
of  
Crinan Church



Mr. Donald Currie



Mr. James McLean

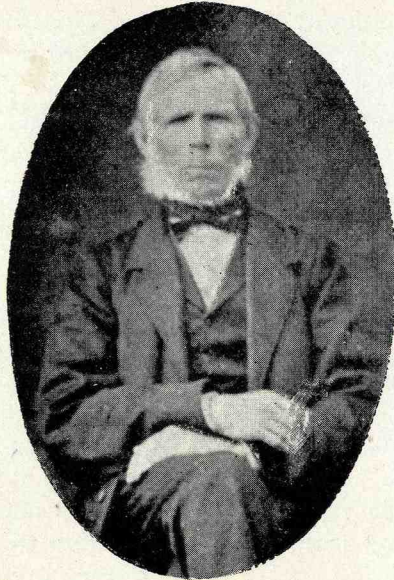


Mr. Duncan Stalker



Mr. James Stalker

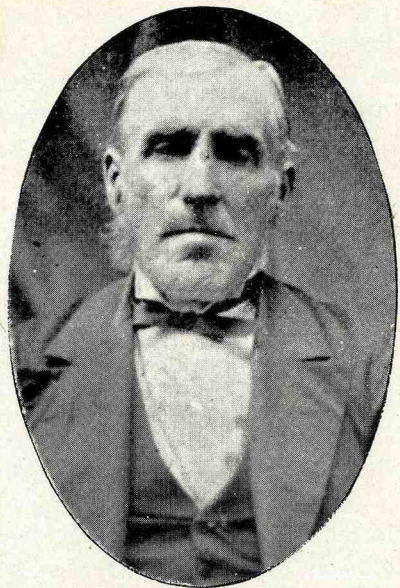
First Elders  
of  
Crinan Church



Mr. Farquahar McRae



Mr. Gilbert Stalker



Mr. Peter Johnson

Elders  
Ordained 1881



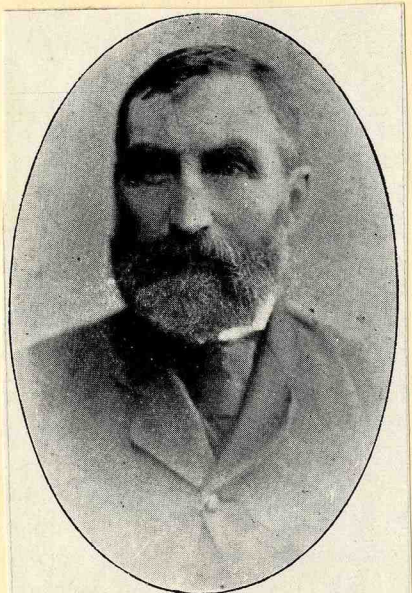
Mr. Duncan Campbell



Mr. John Johnson



Mr. James McLean



Mr. Dugald Stewart



Mr. John McLean



Mr. John G. Stalker

Elders  
Ordained 1901



Mr. Duncan McEachren

ARGYLE CHURCH AT CRINAN, NOW COMPLETELY REBUILT, IS READY FOR  
REDEDICATION

Newspaper account dated June 6th, 1948, was as follows:

The work of rebuilding the pioneer Argyle Presbyterian Church here, erected 87 years ago on the crest of the high land four miles north of West Lorne, is being rushed to completion this week in preparation for the service of re-dedication on Thursday and special reopening services on Sunday, June 20. The service Thursday coincides with the meeting of the London Presbytery being held here especially for the occasion with Rev. Harry Rodney, moderator of the London Presbytery, in charge of the service. Rev. John Waldie, clerk of the Presbytery, and Rev. Richard Stewart, of New St. James' Church, London, are both taking part in the service of rededication.

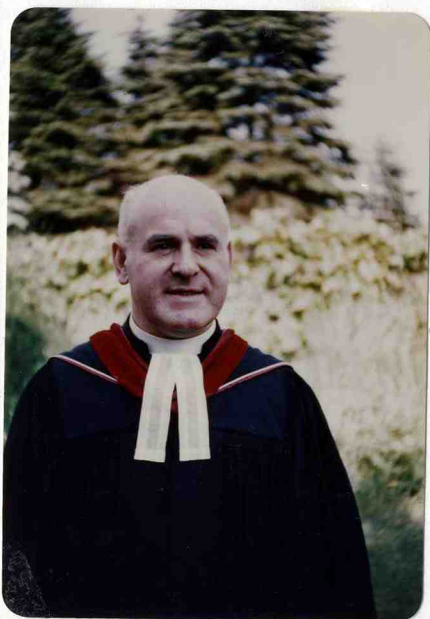
On Sunday, the first service of public worship in the new edifice, will be held at 11 o'clock when the guest speaker will be Professor Keith Andrews, of Knox College, Toronto, a native of this district. At the evening service at 8 o'clock, Rev. Finley Stewart, of Kitchener, will be guest speaker. Special music is being prepared for the Sunday services and on Monday evening there will be a congregational dinner held in the new church hall.

It is more than a year since the people of the church began to raze the original structure, and there have been many problems to overcome since, not to mention the usual difficulties of obtaining hard-to-get materials. The one thing they were not short of was help. Virtually everybody in the church pitched in, along with the minister, Rev. William Sutherland, who is becoming an old hand at building new churches. This is his third.

It was in January, 1947, that the congregation was confronted with the necessity of doing a lot of repair work on their church if they were to have a church at all. The floor was sagging badly and there was no telling when it might give away altogether. The foundation sills had settled so much that the brick veneer of the outside walls was cracked wide open in many places and some brick had already fallen away. With a few words of encouragement from their minister, the congregation decided to undertake completely rebuilding the church and enlarging it by the addition of a hall in the basement and a roomy kitchen where the ladies could hold forth on special occasions.

Now the big job is almost done, though it has meant a rush during the past week. In fact, it is still going on today and there will remain odds and ends of it to be finished up after the rededication ceremonies. It has cost the people of the community, almost all of whom are descendants of the original Scotch pioneers, about \$10,000, of which \$8,000 has

Minister at the Time of  
Re-building.



Rev. William Sutherland, Presbyterian minister of the Argyle and Largie churches, who has made a big personal contribution in having the church at Crinan rebuilt, is a veteran of both World Wars. He came to his present West Elgin charges two years ago following his discharge as an honorary captain from the Canadian Army Chaplain Services, with three and a half years' overseas service.

already been paid out. The finance committee expects to have the balance cleaned up in short order.

Virtually all of the material from the old church has gone back into the new building. The original barn frame is there. It was as good and sound as the day it was run up. The roof is the same that adorned the old church. All but about 3,000 new bricks are those which were cast and baked by the original builders a short distance down the road toward West Lorne. But the church has lost the old lean-to building which stood behind the old structure and which served as a vestry. It also has a completely new front door and vestibule. And it now has a full basement whereas the old building had none.

While virtually all of the able-bodied male members of the present congregation have taken part in the rebuilding of the church, the bulk of the work has fallen upon the shoulders of a 15-man building committee headed by George Carroll. Jack Gilchrist has served as secretary. Unfortunately there was not a soul among the congregation with any great amount of experience in construction work, all being farmers. But under the guidance of Alexander Stewart, a member of the Largie church and a full-fledged builder and carpenter, and of his one helper, they have managed to get along with a minimum of outside help and expense. Their services, of course, have all been donated free.

The present minister, who is a veteran of both world wars, drew up the rough plans for the new church and Mr. Stewart added the finishing touches and necessary details. Mr. Sutherland drew upon his previous experiences in church building when he drafted the plans for the church here. The first church he built was in one of the Chicago suburbs. The other, at Hepworth, near Warton, is one of the smallest in the province. It holds about 60 persons.

In using materials from the old church for the new, the original oak and cherry pews have been refinished and reinstalled, with a new seating arrangement. There is now a single wide centre aisle whereas there used to be two narrower aisles at either side. The fumed oak pulpit, done in June, 1911, by non-resident members of the church in memory of the pioneer settlers of East Aldborough, is back in place in the new church. So is the organ, given to the Argyle Church by the congregation of the Largie Church.

New to the church are the windows, including a memorial window contributed by the Young People in honor of Leslie H. Johnson, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Johnson, of the Aldborough-Dunwich townline road, the only member of the congregation who did not return from service in World War II. He was lost in France in 1944 while serving with the Royal Canadian Engineers, aged 31.

The memorial window in the new vestry was contributed by the whole congregation in honor of the entire pioneer group in this area. The other stained glass windows are in memory of Rev. Dr. Daniel Stalker, the Archie McCallum family, Mr. and