

The previous notice appeared in the Christian Guardian of June 15, 1859, and subsequent issues)

CHRISTIAN Guardian, July 13, 1859, reprinted from Home Journal.

"According to announcement, the Dedicatory Services connected with the New Wesleyan Methodist Church on the Town Line, North of St. Thomas, were held on Sabbath last. The ministers announced were present, and preached to overflowing audiences with satisfaction to all, so far as we have heard. The Rev. Enoch Wood ~~ex~~-president of the Conference, and General Superintendent of Missions, preached the first sermon from the very impressive words of Jesus, "Without me, ye can do nothing", and showed with great simplicity and force, wherein the true strength of the Christian believer as well as of the Church of Christ consists. A visit from the Rev. Gentleman to this locality will be looked forward to with pleasure, by many who had the opportunity of hearing him on his first visit to St. Thomas Circuit. The Pulpit was occupied in the afternoon by the Rev. James Musgrove, Chairman of the Chatham District, whose text was "Your Father who is in Heaven is perfect", dwelling with great clearness and effect upon the natural and moral perfections of God and exhorting to a practical use of the revelation of the existence of these perfections to us, His creatures. In the evening, the Rev. Dr. Cooney officiated, and in his own felicitations and attractive manner discoursed from the text, "For our conversation is in Heaven", etc. In the morning, the crowd was very great. Not only were all the seats filled to their utmost capacity but the aisles - in which temporary seats were placed - and every available standing spot was occupied, and still crowds were gathered around the door who could not obtain access. In the afternoon and evening also, the house was crowded, and that notwithstanding the threatening appearance of the weather - and the fact, that some rain fell during the afternoon.

The Tea-Meeting which was announced for Monday afternoon, may be regarded as one of the most successfully meetings of the kind, ever held in this part of the country.

The proceeds of the whole must be very satisfactory to the trustees and Building Committee, as about \$120 will be realized to aid in liquidating the Church Debt."

The following extract appeared in the Christian Guardian of Sept 11 1895. Talbotville Circuit, London Conference.

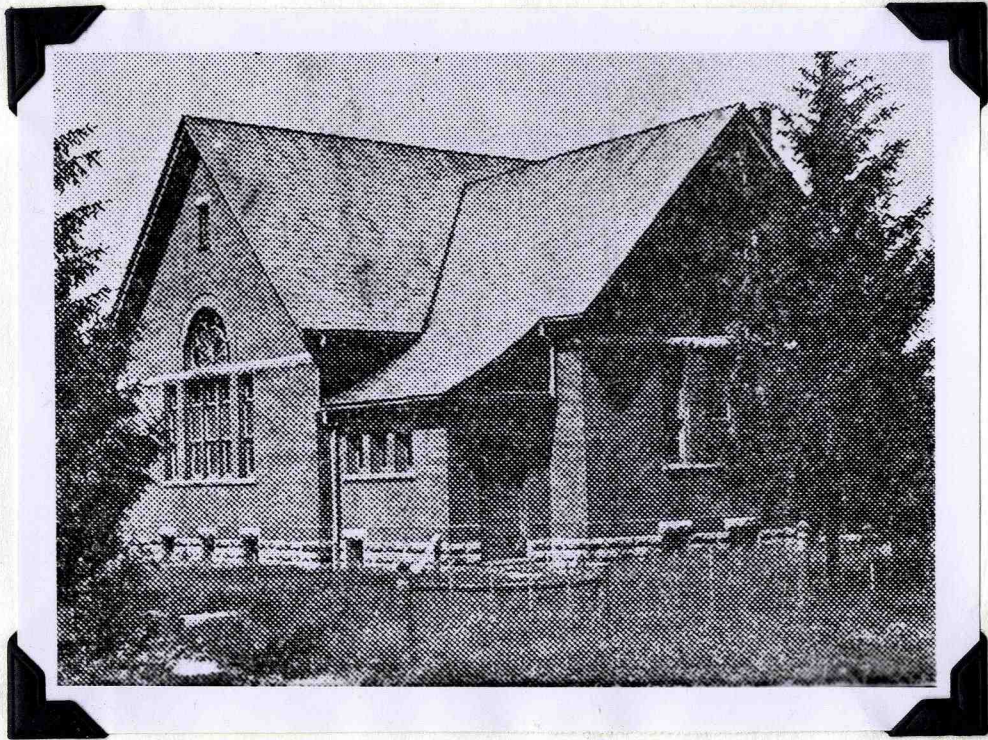
The new church at the Town Line is modern in design, and is pronounced a very fine structure by all who have seen it. Opening services took place on August 18. Rev. Dr. W. William (president) preached at 10.30 a.m. a most eloquent and appropriate sermon, after which the church was dedicated by him and the pastor, Rev. D. Rogers. At 2.30pm Rev. J. Currie (Presbyterian) of Belmont preached, and Dr. Williams again in the evening. The services were continued on August 25, Dr. Hannon (chairman), Rev. R. Millyard and W.W. Shepherd being the preachers of the day. All these services were well attended, and the sermons worthy of the men and the occasion.

The total cost is about \$3,500, more than half of which is paid, and the balance, save about \$125, provided for by reliable subscriptions. Mr. Amasa Wood, of St. Thomas (whose praise is in many churches), gave \$400. at the inception of the movement, and the trustees, members and friends for miles around cheerfully contributed, with the result as above stated. And now we pray that this "Holy and Beautiful house" may be the birth-place of many souls, and continue to be a centre of sacred influence long after those who have been associated with its erection have gone home to worship in the temple of which the Lamb is the everlasting light".

Compiled by Rev. R. E. McLagan



KILMARTIN CHURCH built in 1858, on the eleventh concession of Yarmouth, replaced the first log church built in 1834. In 1905 a new red brick structure known as St. James' Presbyterian Church was built on the twelfth concession, and the frame building was sold to Mr. Bruce Davis and moved to Yarmouth Heights. The cemetery retained the name, - Kilmartin.



The red brick Church which was built to replace the old Kilmartin Church in 1905, the congregation of which was founded by early Scottish Settlers in North Yarmouth who came from Kilmartin in Argyleshire, Scotland in 1834 to 1838.

ST. JAMES (KILMARTIN) PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

There are fairly reliable records of gospel services being held in North Yarmouth as early as 1834 when ministers and catechists visited settlers and held services in the different home.

Colin Smith Sr., whose resting place is in the Kilmartin cemetery, came to Yarmouth in 1834, and there is evidence to show that a log church was built that year, or shortly after his arrival, on a rising knoll just north of the present Kilmartin cemetery. These settlers came from Kilmartin, Argyleshire, Scotland, and naturally wished to perpetuate the name of their old home in these new surroundings. Hugh Douglas, who lived on the farm just east of the cemetery, gave the church its name.

In 1837 or 1838, the Presbyterian congregation took definite form of organization, and the Rev. William McKillican whom the Church of Scotland had commissioned as a missionary to Canada, came from St. Thomas, of which church he was the first minister. He assisted in the work of organizing the congregation. The first elders were Duncan Campbell, Hugh McKay, John McGregor, Hugh Douglas and John McBain.

For the next few years the work was done by catechists and visiting missionaries. One of these was Duncan McColl who arrived with his wife after a thirteen weeks trip across the Atlantic. He was soon appointed by Presbytery a catechist for the townships of Yarmouth, Southwold and Dorchester and devoted himself to this work for forty years; meanwhile keeping up the pioneer work on his farm. He used the Gaelic language, and preached at some station every Sunday, and made half-yearly visits through the district. He went from house to house teaching the Scriptures and the Westminster Catechism. The demand for preaching in English became more urgent yearly, and Mr. McColl had to add to his labours the study of English authors. Characteristic of the man, he was soon able to preach in English as well. The disruption of 1843 in Scotland made a corresponding disturbance among Presbyterians in Canada and Duncan McColl joined the "Free Church" party.

In 1858, the old log church was replaced by a frame building which was built on the Douglas farm across the road and east of the Kilmartin cemetery. Hugh Couglas gave the land as a site for the church. This building twenty or so years later, was moved across the road to the cemetery. In 1905 it was sold and moved to Yarmouth Heights; the congregation having decided to build a new church on the north west corner of the twelfth concession a mile north. This building is a red pressed brick structure and the name St. James Presbyterian Church was given to it, while the cemetery retained the name of Kilmartin.

In 1856 North Yarmouth was separated from St. Thomas and united with South Dorchester, now Belmont. In 1861, Rev. Archibald Currie accepted a call, and was inducted in 1862, as the first settled pastor of the united charge. The Belmont congregation had been looking for some time for another congregation to unite with, as they were unable to stand alone. They tried to unite with the newly organized mission church at Frampton, now Dorchester village, but most of the Presbyterians there were Irish, and did not wish Gaelic preaching. Another attempt to unite was made with the Fifth Concession Church in Westminster, but they being Lowland Scotch preferred not to have the Gaelic. But the Yarmouth settlers loved the Gaelic language, and so with mutual consent Belmont and Kilmartin congregations united.

The order of services for the Lord's Supper in those days is of fascinating interest. On the Thursday previous, which was a fast day, a sermon was preached in English and immediately after in Gaelic. This day was considered by many of the congregation to be as sacred as the Sabbath. On Friday a prayer meeting, or preparatory service was held, led by ministers and elders and at this service the distribution of tokens took place. On the following Sunday, the Communion of the Lord's Supper was dispensed. Then on Monday a Thanksgiving service was held. All services being held at eleven o'clock A.M. The Precentor, who led the singing was an important personage in the services of those days. After a psalm was read, the selection of a familiar tune, such as Coleshill, Kilmarnoc, Gainsboro, was sung without the assistance of any musical instrument. All the congregation joined heartily in the singing, although perhaps, it was neither musical or classical, being in the slow Scottish chanting style. During the singing the congregation remained seated while during prayer they stood up. After the benediction the people walked often a distance of three to five miles back to their homes with hearts filled with gratitude for the privilege of public worship.

In the years since Kilmartin (now St. James) became united with Knox Church Belmont the following ministers have served the charge.

Rev. Archibald Stewart - 1857	Rev. J. Ure Stewart 1918-1923
Rev. Donald McLean - 1858	Rev. John T. Hall 1923- 1925
Rev. James Greenfield- 1859	Rev. David Donaghue 1927-1932
Rev. Neil McKinnon - 1860	Rev. J. Knox Clark 1932- 1945
Rev. Archibald Currie 1862 - 1871	Rev. Baillie 1946 - 1948
Rev. Neil McKinnon 1872 - 1877	Rev. Kincaid 1948 -
Rev. Kenneth McDonald 1879- 1886	
Rev. James A. Brown 1886- 1891	
Rev. John Currie 1892 - 1918	

Jan. 20, 1953.

Hazel M. Smith.
(Mrs. Bruce Smith).



Written on card.

Ailsa Craig,

March 3, 1882.

Dear Sir:

I am in receipt of your letter enclosing five dollars from Yarmouth congregation for the London Presbytery fund for the year 1882.

With thanks,

Yours truly,

John Rennie,
Treasurer.

\$5.00

Women's Missionary Society of

St. James Presbyterian Church, North Yarmouth, 1893-1953

In the year 1834, the people residing in North Yarmouth were interested in having a Presbyterian Church, in fact, so much so, that gospel services were held in the various homes. Later in the year, there is evidence to show, that a log church was built on the 11th concession, a short distance south of the present St. James Church, and on the farm now owned by Harvey Fishbach.

In 1893, the women of Kilmartin Church (as it was called then) were concerned about Mission work, and felt they were not doing their part in helping with the Christian work in foreign lands. On January 24th, 1893, the women of Kilmartin Church organized a Women's Foreign Missionary Society. The meeting opened with prayer and an address on Mission work, which told of the most deplorable conditions of those inhabiting the heathen lands. This address was given by Mrs. Ball Vanneck. The business meeting followed with the following officers being elected:

President	-Mrs. (Rev) Currie
1st Vice-President	-Miss Jessie McGlashan
2nd Vice-President	-Miss Maggie Campbell
Secretary	-Miss Annie Campbell
Treasurer	-Miss Jennie Curtis

It was decided to have the membership fee 25¢. There were four delegates appointed to attend the Prebyterial meeting, which was being held at St. Thomas in February. The second meeting was not held until April, when there was an attendance of fourteen. The Annual meeting of the W.F.M.S. was being held at London during this month, and Mrs. Currie, the President, was appointed to attend.

At the June meeting a motion was made to send clothing to the North-West Indians and on July 14th a bale was sent valued at \$135.00. The total receipts for the year were \$63.36 and there was a membership roll of fifteen, with an average attendance of eight, so this year of 1893 was surely a very satisfactory and gratifying one for the W.F.M.S. of Kilmartin Church.

Inn 1896, Mrs. Currie attended the 20th Annual Meeting, which was being held at Peterboro, and brought back very encouraging reports, especially of the London district. During this year, the W.F.M.S. sent letters to all the ladies of the congregation, asking them to be co-workers, and leaflets were also sent to try and create more interest in Mission work. The responce was very generous. In the fall, a thank-offering meeting was planned. Some years, there were as many as three thank-offering meetings.

In February of 1897, an entertainment was held with a Rev. McIntyre as guest speaker. The admission fee was to be ten cents and the proceeds for the evening amounted to Sixteen dollars and the speaker was given Five dollars. In the records of the year 1900, it was quite customary