

for each member to prepare a short essay on Mission work and give it at the meeting, and also for each member to have charge of a meeting, as her turn came. Most of the meetings were held at the church. The first recollection of a meeting in a home was the November meeting of 1900 at the home of Mrs. Colin McIntyre. It was decided to have the meetings at the various homes for the balance of the winter months. In March of this year, it was decided to clothe four children, who were eleven years of age, in a school at Portage-La-Prairie. At the thank-offering meeting, Rev. Mr. Grant was the guest speaker. He was a returned missionary from China and told of the work carried on there and the customs of the people. The Missionary Tidings were distributed among the congregations with twenty in use. Envelopes were also used for Thank-offering meetings.

A wonderful bale was packed in 1901 which contained 10 quilts, pillows and all kinds of clothing. Mrs. McMillan, the Presbyterian President, was present for the Annual meeting of this year and in her address, spoke of the Mission work in foreign lands. In India, Mrs. McMillan stated, that the work was great, with only one teacher for every 100,000 women. In conclusion, the speaker spoke on Thanksgiving and said, we should give thanks for personal blessings, such as food and clothing as well as for blessings in our work, all of which is from God. One striking feature of the heathen people is the gratitude shown, after having received the gospel message. They are very eager to help others, not yet enlightened. Their untiring efforts to serve the Master against their disadvantages would bring shame on us in a Christian land. Miss Alma Porter, Secretary in 1902, concluded her Annual Report by saying, "Be not weary in well doing, for in due season ye shall reap, if ye faint not."

In 1905, a "Question Drawer" was part of a programme used. Some of the Questions were :

1. Which does accomplish most - Home or Foreign Missions?
2. Why do those who profess to be Christians not serve Christ more fully?
3. Knowing Christian life is beneficial, why is it so hard for us to live it?

In 1905, St. James Presbyterian Church was built on the 12th concession of Yarmouth, where it now stands, and the W.F.M.S., carrying on as usual, feeling that there was much to be done. In 1906, dishes were purchased for the basement and plans were made for the first tea-meeting in the new church. The following year, a discussion arose over the roll-call and it was decided to choose a special word, and that each one answering the roll-call, have this word contained in their verse. In 1912, the Auxiliary decided to make Mrs. Currie a life member. She had been a very efficient leader and President for nineteen years. During this year, a bale was packed for Home Missions and sent to Wakaw, Ontario. This was the first year, since the W.M.S. was organized, that a bale had not been sent to Foreign Missions. As we cannot locate any books for the following thirteen years, we have no records for that time. However, at the May meeting in 1925, a motion was put on record,

"That as a Women's Missionary Society, it wished to remain with the continuing Presbyterian Church". This motion was carried unanimously. The Study book has been used a great deal in the meetings and also a review of the Glad Tidings quite regularly. Our allocation was not always met, as some years our membership was low, but of late years, our objective has been attained.

In 1927, the Presbyterial was held at our church. Mrs. Dill of Toronto, the Dominion Mission Band Secretary, was present, also Mrs. McDonald, President of the W.M.S. of the London Presbyterial and Mrs. Groevenor, supply Secretary. Two Sunday evening services were held with Rev. Donaghue as guest speaker at both services. He gave very instructive missionary talks. The June meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Malcolm McIntyre and Rev. John Garbutt, field secretary for the Bible Society, was the special speaker.

The following year in 1928, a Mission Band was formed, which is a very close link with the Women's Missionary Society and Mrs. Donaghue was appointed President. In 1937, Mrs. (Rev.) Clarke, the president of our Auxiliary, was taken from us, after a long lingering illness. She had been a faithful member and a very active member in all branches of the Church work.

We have made several life members and some have passed on to their great reward. The names on the life membership roll are: Mrs. D.C. Ferguson, Mrs. Malcolm McIntyre, Miss Mary F. Campbell, Mrs. Flora Campbell, Mrs. Gilbert E. Taylor, Mrs. Hattie Campbell, Mrs. Austin McCallum, Mrs. Rev. Currie, Mrs. Gordon Berry, Mrs. Duncan Taylor, Mrs. Harold Davis, Miss Nancy McIntyre.

Mrs. Currie was President for twenty-five years and Mrs. Gordon Berry, still an active member, has been president for six years.

In conclusion, I am happy to say that great interest and enthusiasm is shown by the members of our auxiliary in this great Missionary work of our church. As we look back over these sixty years of service in Mission work, we feel we have had a part (a very small part) in the great work that is very necessary, both at home and abroad. Some years have been discouraging but we kept on, knowing that God's guiding hand was ever near, always ready to assist us. I would like to conclude with a verse found in one of the record books -

What's the true test of living,  
A life that is spent in giving.  
Give talent, thought and voice  
To make God's world rejoice;  
Give work and love and will,  
Give golden time and skill,  
And as tho u givest, -- thy store  
Shall grow not less, but more.

Hazel M. Smith

(Mrs. Bruce Smith)



The Session and Managers  
of St. James Church, Yarmouth,  
at the centennial services, June, 1938.

Seated:

Gilbert E. Taylor  
Rev. Knox Clark  
Herman G. Taylor  
Donald A. Ferguson

Standing:

Colin A. Campbell  
Archibald J. Smith  
Gordon R. Berry  
Dugald McIntyre  
Ferguson Campbell  
Campbell McIntyre  
John J. Smith

MRS. PEGGY McDONALD

One who might be described as being a pioneer of social service and reform, was an eccentric and strong-willed Scottish woman, named Peggy McDonald, who lived on the fourteenth concession of North Yarmouth in the 1860's.

She was interested in the rights of women and children. She pioneered for Bible teaching in the schools; also that sidewalks should be built to the schools for the use of the children; and was ready to criticize and reform the church.

Mrs. McDonald would attend the service in Kilmartin Presbyterian Church, and when the minister finished his sermon, she would rise from her pew and criticize, adding some of her own ideas. She spoke in a quiet manner but was not to be silenced. Her presence so troubled one of the ministers, a Mr. McKennon, that he told the elders they would have to keep her from attending the church.

One Sunday in summer, two of the elders, Dugald Campbell and a Mr. Cameron, were placed on guard, sitting under a tree beside the road a short distance north of the church. When Peggy came along they asked her to sit down and rest. Peggy innocently complied with their request but she saw through their plan. Soon she offered to sing to them and they welcomed her suggestion as an act of Providence to help them carry out their intention of detaining her.

It being a hot, drowsy day, Peggy's voice was very soothing and, gradually, the heads of the staid elders began to droop and they were sound asleep. She lost no time in getting to the church to have her say and did not wait until the minister was finished his sermon, but breathlessly began to talk as soon as she entered the door -- telling how she had sung the elders to sleep.

Although Mrs. McDonald was eccentric, she was always neat and clean in appearance, distinguished by a spotless white sun bonnet. She was commonly known as "Peggy Isle Uist", because she and her parents came from the Isle of Uist in the Hebrides off the coast of Scotland.

Mrs. Alfred E. Bucke

The Centennial Issue of the  
St. Thomas Times Journal,  
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## SALT-CREEK CEMETERY

Salt Creek Cemetary, the last resting place of some of Yarmouth's best known pioneer families, is so named because of its position near the Salt Creek ravine and the first bodies were laid there in 1830 at the time when there was a scourge of cholera in North Yarmouth.

Later, members of the families of those who had been buried in the little plot decided to make it a community grave yard, as cemeteries were then commonly called, and from a tract made the registration of deeds at the Elgin registration office it is found that on October 28th, 1847 John Fairgreave and his wife conveyed to William Baker by deed - Lot #9 Concession 10 except a half acre, nearly square in shape which was granted to Hugh Douglas for a burying ground. On June 2nd, 1845 John Fairgrieve had deeded the half acre to Douglas as trustee. This deed stated that this lot was to be kept by Douglas, his heirs, administrators and assigns for the purpose of a burying ground for all Christian denominations and without obstruction except for such churches as the Presbyterian Church of Scotland or the Wesleyan Methodist or any other Christian Protestant church.

On November 12th, 1846, Hugh Douglas conveyed to Thomas Penhale, John Penhale, Joseph Cole, John Fowler and George Axford, trustees of the chapel of Canadian Wesleyan Methodist New Connection, the plot for the purpose of erecting a church and for a burying ground. The church was linked with the work of the Yarmouth Centre charge and the church yard became the last resting place of members of such well known families as the Skeldings, Douglas, Axford, Penhale, Porter, Fowler, Gloin, Baker, Cole and Meeks.

About 1905 the church, which had not been used for services for some years was moved to Sparta, which was to be used on the parsonage property and with the removal of the little meeting house from Salt Creek, the little plot with its white slabs took on a most neglected appearance and even the fence was no longer of any use.

In 1917 some of the public spirited men of the community headed by George Westlake, Neil Curtis and Alfred Bucke raised money by subscription and with bee labour erected a good wire fence around the property, it was given a general cleaning of weeds and wild growth. A number of evergreens and hardy shrubs were planted and the tombstones were straightened and repaired.

In 1930 the North Yarmouth W.I. organized a field day to give the little cemetery another good cleaning and since that time they have arranged for the weed cutting on several occasions.

Whether our direct forbears lie there or not may it be a matter of community pride to occasionally pay tribute to these honoured pioneers by putting their resting place in order. With Col. John McCrae's lines may we link their memories:

"To you from falling hands we throw  
The torch. Be yours to hold it high."

(Miss) Myrtle M. Paddon.

1/23/46.



The remodelled pioneer Kilmartin Cemetery in North Yarmouth was dedicated June 23, 1963. The old tombstones were placed in a box-shaped wall in front of the cemetery. There had been burials here as early as the 1830's and the last one was in 1938. The Yarmouth Glen Women's Institute sponsored the project. Mrs. J. C. Penhale and Mrs. Julien Martin, of the Women's Institute Mason Tansley Yarmouth Reeve and Rev. W. A. Kincaid of St. James Presbyterian Church took part in the services.

SCHOOL SECTION NO. 18 EAST YARMOUTH.

School records date back to 1876, but the late Mr. John Norman told me that in 1860 there were 110 pupils with J.P. Martyn as teacher to be followed by Dugald McBrayne, Mr. Calvert, Dr. McLarty and Dr. Charles Marlatt.

1876

The assessed value of property of section was \$320,000.00 with teachers Anna Caughell at \$375.00 and Grace McBride \$240.00 Attendance 83 pupils.

John Jennings, janitor at brick school receiving \$12.00 for his services and Harley McConnell, janitor at the frame school \$12.00

Paid Mrs. Mary Pearce rent for use of house for school.

March 10, 1881

By the Act of incorporation of St. Thomas, a portion of S.S.No. 18, is taken into St. Thomas, it is therefore moved by Dan. Newcombe seconded by Hector Hughes that we dismiss all the pupils that belong to St. Thomas from the school forthwith, and that the secretary notify the same to that effect, and that the trustees notify Mrs. Mary Pearce of giving up the building used as a school house.

March 29, 1881.

Decided to close west end (house) school on June 30th and notify Miss Alma Caughell.

1882

Insured school in Yarmouth. Mutual Insurance Company for \$700.00

1889

Authorized trustees to consider proper accomodation in west section. Contract price for new school on Park Avenue, Yarmouth Heights, to Robert Cole of St. Thomas for \$875.00. School to be built on a lot bought from Mr. Leitch for \$350.00.

1891

Edgar Sanders teacher at a salary of \$425.00 this to include sweeping and lighting fires.

1898

J.H.Kinsman built woodshed parallel with north end of school and 150 feet of sidewalk for \$60.00 and dug well for \$27.00.

1900.

July 25. Received petition from ratepayers of the north-west part of section for a school house. This was built and known as Locke's school.