

who took up land in the WALLACETOWN district in the middle years of the past century - the McFARLANE'S, McKillop's, McARTHUR'S, McPHERSON'S AND A LITTLE LATER THE McKELLAR'S, GOW'S, CAMERON'S AND OTHERS.

Churches were few and far between. Stories are told of long and dangerous journeys to reach a place of worship and enjoy the privilege of hearing message from God's Word.

Travelling missionaries held occasional services and the WALLACETOWN group formed a part of the ALSBOROUGH congregation in connection with the PRESBYTERIAN Church until about year 1852, when increased membership prompted them to take steps to form a distinct ministerial charge. A congregation in conjunction with the "STATION AT THE RIVER" now Duff Church was formed, which connection was maintained until 1875.

Plans were made for the erection of a church. A meeting was held MARCH 25th 1852, to select a suitable place. MR. ARCH. McFARLANE offered a site in WALLACETOWN. A building committee was appointed and April 16th a contract was given to MALCOLM CAMPBELL, the building to be completed JANUARY 1853.

The first church was opened August 7th 1853 by REV. THOS. FRASER of FINGAL and ST. THOMAS. The church on opening day could not accommodate the crowd that had assembled and the congregation adjourned to the nearby woods for the service.

Until 1859 the congregations were ministered to by the REVS. BROWN, CLARKE, McCOLL, FRASER AND OTHERS. IN THAT YEAR REV. ARCHIBALD McDIARMID was inducted and labored in the joint charge until 1866.

There followed in succession REV. NEIL McDIARMID 1868-1874 AND REV. J. McDONALD 1877-1880. THIS SAME YEAR, 1880, REV. DONALD STEWART became pastor and conducted services in Dutton, his ministry closed in 1888. A call was given to REV. DONALD K.

DURING MR. KELSO'S PASTORATE, to mark the GOLDEN JUBILEE the first church building was rebuilt and the present church opened April 12th 1903 by PROFESSOR McLAREN of KNOX COLLEGE, TORONTO. REV. MR. KELSO passed to his reward in September 1916, marking the close of a long and faithful pastorate of 28 years.

Then followed - REV. JAMES McILLROY, REV. STANLEY OWEN, REV. J. R. DOUGLAS until JUNE, 1925. IN THAT YEAR 1925, when the United Church was formed a number of congregation transferred their membership to that denomination leaving the home church in a weakened condition. Arrangements were to join the PRESBYTERIAN Church of WEST LORNE and form a self sustaining charge.

The following pastors were REV. T. DE COURCY RAYNOR, REV. J. H. MOORE, REV. R. RUSSELL, REV. T. R. MAXWELL until 1946, when on November 7th of that year, REV. ROBERT BRUCE the present minister was inducted.

[PLEASE TURN OVER]

ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN HISTORY



CHOIR, 1899

Seated—Duncan McKillop, John C. Campbell, Maud Cameron, Sarah Campbell, Edward Clarke.
Standing—Elizabeth Campbell, Janet Campbell, Robert Campbell, Georgina Blackwood, George Robb.



REV. D. KELSO
with
his family
in his
home.

MRS. KELSO, ROBERT, DONALD, MAGGIE, JAMES.

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY

The Women's Home Missionary Society was organized on June 25th, 1908, forty-four years ago, by Mrs. John Currie of Belmont. Rev. Donald Kelso was then pastor and was in complete sympathy with the work of the organization. Mrs. Donald Kelso acted as president and Miss Sarah McKillop as secretary of that first meeting. Mrs. Currie spoke of the missionary work in the Canadian West and told of the need of the co-operation of every member in every society. Her address was followed by the organization of the new society. The executive consisted of: President, Mrs. D. Kelso; 1st vice-president, Mrs. John Robb; 2nd vice-president, Miss Ann McKellar; secretary, Miss Maggie Kelso; treasurer, Mrs. John R. Gow.

Wallacetown W.M.S. Marks 50th Birthday 1958



—Free Press St. Thomas Bureau Photo
Members of the Women's Missionary Society of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Wallacetown celebrated their 50th anniversary at a special meeting held in the church. Joining in the celebration were, left to right: Mrs. Harold Lunn, president; Mrs. John McKillop and Mrs. J. A. Cameron, past presidents; Mrs. Mildred Gehman of the Christian Medical College in Vellore, India; and Mrs. Clarence Blue, also a past president.

Evangelistic work in the mission fields of India was described to the Women's Missionary Society of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church at Wallacetown on June 25th by Mrs. Mildred Gehman, of the Christian Medical College of Vellore, India.

The address was given as the society marked its 50th anniversary with nearly 100 persons in attendance. The president, Mrs. Harold Lunn, presided.

Mrs. Gehman, who came from China to join the college staff in India five and a half years ago told the group the college is one of two schools of nursing in India which trains students for degrees.

She also described the evangelistic work of one of the largest international interdenominational institutions in the world.

Mrs. Gehman was introduced by Mrs. Donald Ford and Mrs. Douglers extended the vote of thanks. She pleaded for assistance for the Christian services being carried on in Vellore. "We have so much here, yet we give so little!" If we could but know the radiant Christians which graduate from the college, we would increase our missionary givings. "Many times", she said, "the hospital felt the churches at home had failed them in their support."

Adding color to the occasion Mrs. Gehman was attired in traditional Indian garb and members showed much interest in her multi-colored sari.

The address of welcome on behalf of the Wallacetown Society was made by Mrs. John McKillop. Everyone enjoyed a solo, "An Evening Prayer," by Mrs. James McKellar.

Correspondence was read by Mrs. R. Cameron.

Devotions on the anniversary occasion were led by Mrs. Neil Robb and Mrs. Ernest Ford, with Mrs.

Neil McKellar reviewing the society's 50-year history. Greetings and congratulations from the Presbyterial were brought by Mrs. D. A. McNaughton.

The offering was taken by Mrs. D. A. McKillop, Mrs. Don McGregor, Mrs. Wm. McLandress and Miss Jean Cameron, with the offertory prayer being given by Mrs. H. Lunn.

There was a candlelight service and those taking part were Mesdames Grant Cameron, Mac Graham, Finlay McPherson, Clare Blue and Alex. Lackey.

Mrs. Ezra Martelle was in charge of the register. During the lunch-hour, Mrs. Neil A. Robb cut the three-tiered anniversary cake.

Reminiscences of previous years were given by Miss Minnie Gow, Dutton; Miss Annie Robb, Rodney; Mrs. R. Bruce, Wyoming, and Mrs. J. A. MacLean, Dutton.

Mrs. J. A. Cameron and Mrs. Neil A. McKellar poured tea at a lace-covered table, centred with the three-tiered anniversary cake.



CHOIR, 1952

First row, left to right—Mrs. Carey Holland, Mrs. Neil McKellar, Mrs. Herb. Wight, Gary Martelle, Mrs. J. A. Cameron, Mrs. Ted Lamb, Mrs. Clare Blue.

Second row—Mrs. Mac Graham, Jean Lunn, Donia Cameron, Phyllis Lunn, Agnes Martelle, Elizabeth Clarke, Anne Cameron, Mrs. Arch. McFarlane.

Third row—Marshall Cameron, Albert Ford, Ronald Ford, Herb. Wight, Bruce Lunn, Raymond Lunn, Harold Lunn.

HISTORY OF ST. HELEN'S CHURCH WALLACETOWN.

About 1850 Catholic people began settling in Dunwich Township, a short distance from the village of Wallacetown. They were almost entirely of Irish origin. For some time they attended Mass when possible in St. Thomas, at that time the nearest place with a resident priest.

Pioneer priests visited their settlement, baptising their children, buried the dead, performed their marriages. After a short time as their number grew, Mass was held at irregular intervals for seven years in the home of Michael Hooley on 9th. Congress. The people then decided that a church should be built - a frame structure on land donated by Mr. Hooley.

This church served the community for number of years but in 1902 the need was felt for a better and more centrally located building and a site was chosen on what had been the home of Lilley family early pioneers of Wallacetown. The corner stone was laid on September 21, 1902, and in a short time a fine building was erected of sufficient proportions to care for Catholic families in the community. The building of this church was under the direction of Rev. Father Patrick Quinlan.



St. HELEN'S
[IN WINTER]

The priests who have served as pastors are:

REV. FATHER FLANNERY PREVIOUS TO 1894

REV. FATHER QUINLAN 1894 - 1905

REV. FATHER THOMAS HUSSEY 1905 - 1910

REV. FATHER FUERTH UNTIL 1921

REV. FATHER FINN UNTIL 1929

REV. FATHER GLEASON UNTIL 1933 SUCCEEDED BY

REV. FATHER CHISHOLM UNTIL 1947 SUCCEEDED BY

REV. FATHER O'ROURKE UNTIL 1949 SUCCEEDED BY THE

PRESENT PASTOR, REV. FATHER McHUGH TO PRESENT DATE 1958

SOMETIME IN THE 1880'S A SPOT OF LAND WAS DONATED BY TIMOTHY CROWLEY WHERE THEY COULD BURY THEIR DEAD WITHIN REASONABLE DISTANCE OF THEIR CHURCH. THE CEMETERY IS COMMONLY REFERRED AS CROWLEY CEMETERY