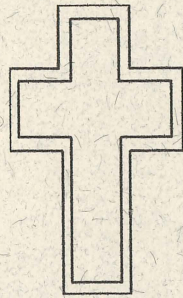


ST. JOHN'S CHURCH RIDGEMOUNT

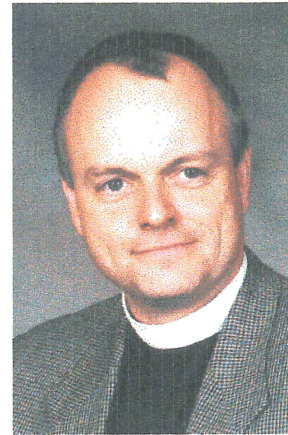


MEMORIAL SUNDAY MAY 24, 1998

The Reverend Andrew Murray, Rector



Dedicated to the Glory of God
and in loving memory
of the Faithfully Departed of
St. John's Anglican Church
Ridgemount



Rector's Message

When Barnabas went from the city of Jerusalem to Antioch it was to spread the Gospel to the gentiles. Known as the "son of consolation" he moved in a quiet humble way to tell the story of Jesus. And miraculously, from that humble beginning the Word was spread to the corners of the earth and, in time, here to the quaint country Church of St. John's in the Township of Bertie.

Barnabas spoke to those who wanted to hear wherever he met them. And Jesus preached from a boat on the sea of Galilee and from the hillsides. There were no church buildings as we know them today. Pleasant and attractive meeting places are a secular necessity but the real church is the people and the Body of Christ.

We meet each Sunday in this historic setting to hear the Word of the Lord and to join together in common prayer, asking that we be blessed with the spirit which is only granted through the grace of God. The Word of God has not changed and neither has his promise even in a world that abounds in secular aberrations. And so we enjoy the common prayers said in unison, the hymns and the homilies and treasure the fellowship with friends and neighbours.

On this special Memorial Sunday we think of those who once sat in these pews and those from the larger community who are now at peace with the Lord in the hope of resurrection and the life everlasting.

Remember all who have submitted to Christ the Lord and repented are quickened, raised and seated together with Christ. While some of the Church are already at home with the Lord, the remaining visible part of the Church dwells on earth, but by faith "in Christ" we are already seated "in the heavenlies". We "reign in life by one, Jesus Christ". (Rom. 5:17)

We welcome all those who attend this special service today. May the Lord be with you now and evermore. Amen.

Andrew Murray †

A Message from the Wardens

This is the second year of our Memorial Service to honour the memory of those who rest in St. John's churchyard. Last year the service and reception were well attended by visitors from throughout the region. Their support of gifts for the cemetery and church fund are greatly appreciated.

Nineteen ninety-eight marks the 158th year of worship and parish life at St. John's. Can you imagine those early vestry meetings conducted around a wood stove by the light of oil lamps? Many current parishioners are descendants of those early church members, many are newcomers; but we all share an Anglican tradition as followers of Jesus Christ.

The office of church warden is an ancient and honourable one. The wardens, one appointed by the rector and one by the people, serve as custodians of the church buildings and grounds, parish records, staff appointments and parish finances. The members of the parish council assist and advise the wardens in these matters and together plan and organize the activities of the parish.

In medieval times the wardens organized various fund raising activities such as sales in the church yard. Some churches owned flocks of sheep and herds of cattle - their care another responsibility of the wardens. Some of these traditions have transcended the years with variations - bazaars, festivals, dinners, and for St. John's, the annual play production which has seen its 50th year.

As wardens we support Andrew's goal of enriching ministry and worship and will continue to work with him in mutual support in the care of the congregation which is the Church and in the planning of future events and activities.

Charlene Nigh, People's Warden
Jim Laur, Rector's Warden

St. John's in Perspective

- 1764 First Fort Erie constructed of wood
- 1776 American Revolution and start of migration to Canada
- 1781 Britain purchased 4 mile strip of land along the Niagara
- 1785 Free land grants to settlers plus rations for three years
- 1788 The Hungry Year - drought and famine
- 1789 Amos Chapman surveyed area - called it Quaker Township
- 1791 Constitutional Act - self-government to Upper & Lower Canada
- 1792 Newark made capital - Lt. Gov. John Graves Simcoe
- 1793 Bertie Township named after Willoughby Bertie
- First Human Rights Act in British Empire passed at Newark
- 1800 First Library opened at Newark (Niagara on the Lake)
- 1803 Second Fort Erie constructed of wood
- 1812 Third Fort Erie built of stone - unfinished when war started
- 1812 War with United States - ended 1814
- 1825 First Fire Department started at Newark
- 1827 **St. Paul's Church built**
- 1837 **Purchase of land for St. John's Church**
Rebellion in Upper Canada over poor roads, schools, Clergy
Reserves, general neglect of farmer's needs
- 1838 **Rev. John Anderson named rector of St. Paul's Parish**
- 1840 **St. John's Anglican Church built**
- 1841 **First known interment at St. John's - Elizabeth Miller**
- 1846 **First Confirmation at St. John's by Bishop Strachan**
- 1863 **Rev. Greenham starts regular Sunday services at St. Paul's**
- 1865 Fenian Raid
- 1867 Confederation
- 1874 **Purchase of additional land at St. John's for cemetery**
Bertie Township Hall constructed
- 1899 **Silver wine pitcher donated in memory of Helen Anderson**
- 1910 **Chancel added to St. John's**
- 1926 **Additional land purchased for cemetery**
- 1928 **Guild provides Baptismal Font**
- 1932 **Electric lighting installed**
- 1958 **Bell installed in tower**
- 1964 **Extensive renovations to Church**
- 1965 **Celebration of 125th Anniversary at St. John's**
- 1957 **Parish Hall Constructed**
- 1990 **Celebration of 150th Anniversary**

The Story of St. John's Anglican Church

The members of St. John's Church are more than a congregation - they are a family of worshipers whose strength and devotion have upheld the faith through a number of generations from 1840 to the present - 158 years.

* * *

It was a glorious bright summer day, June 18, 1846. Parishioners, dressed in their Sunday best, arrived at the little white church by horse and carriage from near and far along Ridgemount and Bowen Road, left their carriages in the horse barn at the rear and walked through the treed glade to the entrance of the sanctuary.

As they entered, there was a growing sense of anticipation and excitement - the Bishop was coming all the way from Toronto to receive sixty-three members into the Church. It was a great honour to have Bishop Strachan, the head of the Anglican church for all of Upper Canada, conduct the first confirmation at St. John's. Sun streamed through the south windows spilling bands of brilliant light across the pews and pulpit, illuminating the altar and cross and the Bishop's chair placed central to the aisle.

The loft was already filled to capacity as were the pews below with mothers, fathers, grandparents and children, some in arms. No one could miss this Apostolic Rite. Everyone was there and as the processional commenced all eyes were on the cross bearer, the Rector, John Anderson, and of course, the Bishop with his colourful robes, tall mitre, carrying his staff which looked to the children like the staff carried by the Good Shepherd as they had seen Him in their Bible story books.

The candidates for confirmation, seated at the front, occupied more than half the pews while their families looked on with pride from the rear and from the balcony. All who had worked so hard for the establishment of St. John's, welcomed the visit of the Bishop and saw their vision of a growing congregation become a reality. This is what we might imagine it would have been like had we been present on that glorious day.

EARLY DAYS OF ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, RIDGEMOUNT

By George Tait
(1927)

When the erection of St. John's Church at Ridgemount was begun in the year 1840 the diocese of Toronto embraced nearly all of the Province of Ontario west of that city and was under the supervision of Bishop Strachan.

The Parish of Waterloo covered then, as it does now, the Township of Bertie and was in charge of its first Rector, the Rev. John Anderson, through whose efforts the church was erected to serve the needs of his rural parishioners.

The confirmation class whose names are given below would probably be presented for confirmation on the occasion of His Lordship's first visit to the new church.

None of the candidates appear to be living (1927) but a number of their descendants reside in the vicinity and the names on the list will be familiar to many.

List of Candidates for Confirmation at St. John's Church, Bertie, June 18th, 1846:

Names	Age	Names	Age
Lydia Scarlet	23	Lydia Jansen	15
Mary Scarlet	19	Levinia Teal	15
Catharine Scarlet	25	Mary Craig	24
Thomas Scarlet	21	Samuel McMurray	23
Mathew Spedding	18	Charlotte Bowen	15
William Spedding	16	Susan Buck	18
James Rooth	16	Isaac Buck	..
Margaret McMurray	20	Powell Wilson	28
Jane McMurray	16	Charlotte Wilson	15
Mary Ann Palmer	18	John Palmer Miller	17
Catherine Palmer	15	Edward Miller	15
Mary Jane Miller	19	Mary McMurray	17
Melinda E. Miller	17	Andrew Miller, Sr.	45
Anna H. Miller	15	Mrs. E. Miller	42
David Sommerville	18	Benjamin Miller	43

EARLY DAYS AT ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

Catharine Teal	20	Mrs. Everett , Senior	...
Lydia Teal	18	Mrs. Palmer, Senior	...
Mary Ann Jansen	21	James Adair, Senior	...
Sarah Jane Jansen	19	Mrs. Adair	...
James Hardison	21	Christina Benner	23
Isabella Shackleton	17	Abigail Eva Benner	21
Jane Shackleton	15	Matthias Haun	32
Mary Stevenson	20	George Anger	21
Agnes Stevenson	17	Mrs. Bowen	...
Thomas Bowen	22	Mrs. Thompson	...
Jane Adair	19	Thomas Cawthard	...
James Adair	15	Henry Laur	...
Emma Powell	16	George Dumklee	...
Elizabeth Powell	16	Mrs. Beach	...
Jane Goldie	15	Robert Stevenson	...
George Cawthard	...	Mrs. Stevenson	...
Hanna Cawthard	...		

Total 63 Names

List of Candidates for Confirmation at St. Paul's Church, June 19, 1846:

Mrs. Lewis, Senior	...	George Hardison	37
Mrs. Onison	...	David Hardison	23
Miss Lewis	...	John Adair	...
E. Riselay Jr.	17	Mrs. Adair	...
Julia Riselay	...	Margaret L. Y. Anderson	16
William Anderson	...	Margaret Rainsford	15
C.D. Hall	20	Caroline Warren	18
James Halbert	18	Charlotte Warren	16
George Halbert	16	Sophia Warren	16
		Mrs. W. Warren	...

Total 19 Names

Source: Welland County Historical Society Papers and Records, Vol. III, 1927.

The first Confirmation tour of Bishop Strachan following his appointment as Bishop of Upper Canada, a vast charge for which he had total responsibility, was in 1840 and Niagara may have been chosen as the first area of visitation because access by road was easier than it would have been to the north or the west. A memoir reads as follows:

“The Bishop of Toronto, after due notice of his arrangements, commenced his first Confirmation Tour on the 24th May, 1840. His first visit was to the Niagara District, -- Comprehending the present Counties of Lincoln, Welland and Haldimand, -- where the parishes of eight Clergymen were visited, and 139 persons confirmed. At Niagara he officiated on Sunday, the 30th, to crowded and attentive congregations, he received a warm address, to which he replied in corresponding manner.”

He returned to Toronto early in June indicating that his stay in the peninsula lasted more than one week.

When he returned six years later to conduct the first Confirmation at St. John's we can infer that he spent a similar amount of time in the area stopping on his way here at Ancaster, Grimsby, Niagara and Chippawa where Rev. Leeming was rector. His mode of travel was probably by coach or carriage as the roads here, although still crude dirt roads, were somewhat better than those found in some of the other areas that he was required to visit. As to accommodations it is quite likely that he stayed with the rectors or with prominent citizens in each parish.

His most demanding tour in 1842 took him through rugged terrain by wagon, over roads that were sometimes impassible, to Sault Ste. Marie and Michilimackinac. There were times when the wagon became mired in the mud and the party was forced to stay in farmhouses until conditions improved. On that tour he travelled 2500 miles and confirmed 756 people. In order to reach Manitoulin Island he travelled by canoe.

This gives us some idea of what this hardy Scottish pioneer was like. A man who came to Kingston in 1799 as a teacher of young boys, the sons of prominent figures such as Richard Cartwright and clergyman John Stuart, with whom he studied in preparation for the ministry. In 1803 he presented himself to Bishop Jacob Mountain for ordination and went off to Cornwall as a deacon. At his own grammar school at

Cornwall he taught John and William Macauly and John Beverly Robinson among other noted people. The objective at his school was to encourage his boys to become British patriots and Christian gentlemen. In 1807 he married Ann Wood McGill. They had eight children of which two died in infancy.

When he was appointed to York it was as a rector and as chaplain to the garrison and to the Legislative Assembly. Here he came in contact with the leaders of the Province and became a member of the Executive Council. He was appointed Bishop of Toronto in 1840 and commenced his Confirmation Tours in that year. He continued the demanding task and was still making his difficult journeys into the hinterlands at age sixty-seven.

This was the man who came to St. John's Church on June 18, 1846 to confirm sixty-three people. It is not likely that people at that time were able to comprehend the difficulty of his travels and the magnitude of his responsibility in carrying out his Apostolic duties.

The visit of the Bishop made this Confirmation day one of importance for the young rector who had come to Bertie Township as a missionary following the work of the two previous itinerant ministers. He was preceded by Reverend Addison, of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, and by Reverend Leeming of Holy Trinity Church at Chippawa. Reverend Leeming travelled on horseback from Chippawa from 1820 to 1828 conducting services in the home of William Smith and at Kerby's Mill.

In 1828, following the construction of St. Paul's, the little white church overlooking the Niagara River at Fort Erie, John Anderson conducted services, and in 1838 was officially presented to the parish of Waterloo by Lt. Governor Sir John Colborne, representing King William II, as first rector of St. Paul's Church, responsible for all of Bertie Township along with parts of Humberstone and Willoughby Townships.

He came to know all stations of people in the village of Waterloo and the Township--the Warrens, the Smiths, Hardisons, Stantons, Col. Kerby and Dr. Benjamin Prentice Hall. At St. John's he ministered to the spiritual needs of the

Teals, the Millers, the Benners, the Laurs, the Powells and so many others associated with the early church. He married Helen Yule, sister of Alexander Douglas' wife and aunt of Dr. William Douglas who founded Douglas Memorial Hospital.

Bertie Township was growing rapidly. At this time it had a population of approximately 2000 people, with 1,877 acres under cultivation and 17,942 acres of pasture. It was a farming community carved out of the virgin forest to become a leader in the production of wheat, barley, oats, Indian corn, maple sugar, wool and butter as well as other produce. It was a hardworking Christian community held together by its faith.

The new rector of St. Paul's was well aware of his responsibility to serve all of Bertie Township and realized the need for expansion into the rural areas. He, along with wardens Henry Teal and Adolphus Meyer, found a suitable location for a new church, about half way between the River Road and Stevensville, on Ridgemount Road just off the well travelled Bowen Road. They arranged for the purchase of one-half acre of land from Charles Hibbard for 25 Pounds in 1837. With that commitment the building project was underway.

In the early days, after completion of the edifice, Reverend Anderson held services at St. John's and St. Paul's. This was not as demanding as it might seem as the new manse, built in 1846, was strategically located at the foot of Bowen Road overlooking the Niagara River. Travelling over the River Road he offered services at St. Paul's and via Bowen Road at St. John's. The manse, once owned by Sir Harry Oakes, still stands and is now a private home owned by Mr. and Mrs. John Campbell.

St. John's was nestled in a quiet treed pastoral setting, a section of the Charles Hibbard farm that had been retained as woodlot. Not far away, just down the slope of the road to the north was a crossroad and along it were some small houses, a church and a store. It was a black community of about 200 souls, escaped slaves who had fled the chains of bondage to the south and found freedom in the "promised land." It was known as Little Africa and here the men found work making railroad ties and cutting wood for the steamboats on the Niagara River. Here we had two churches located within a few hundred feet of each other. Did the sounds of the activity on a Sunday reach each other on the still country air? Two Christian communities side by side.



Memorial Window

Installed in St. John's Church, Ridgemoor,
in memory of the late Rev. John Anderson,
first Rector of the Parish, by

William Briscall Co.

Ornamental Glass Makers

BRIDGEBURG

Stained and Leaded Glass
for Churches and Residences.

Bevel Plate Mirrors and
Metallic Sash Paints and Oils

The William Briscall Co. Operated in the village of Bridgeburg in the early 1900's making stained and bevelled glass windows for churches and homes. This window above the altar at St. John's is dedicted to the memory of the first rector, The Rev. John Anderson.

ST. JOHN'S DEED

A MEMORIAL to be registered pursuant to the Statute in such case made and provided, - Of an Indenture of bargain and Sale, Made at Bertie, in the County of Lincoln District of Niagara and Province of Upper Canada, the thirteenth day of July in the year of the Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty-six, By and between Charles Hibbard of the Township of Bertie, County, District and Province aforesaid Yeoman of the one part and John Anderson, Clerk, Rector of Waterloo, Township of Bertie, Henry Teal and Adolphus Meyer Yeomen -- Church Wardens and their successors in office, all of the Township of Bertie, of the other part,

WHEREBY the said Charles Hibbard for and in Consideration of the Sum of Twenty five pounds of lawful money of the said Province to him in hand paid by the said John Anderson, Henry Teal and Adolphus Meyer -- at or before the ensembling and delivery of these presents the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, hath granted, bargained, Sold Aliened, transferred, Conveyed, enfeoffed and Confirmed unto the said John Anderson, Henry Teal and Adolphus F. Meyer and their successors in office for Ever, -- All and singular that certain Parcel or Tract of Land and Premises, situate lying and being in the Township of Bertie, County District and Province aforesaid, being composed of part of Lot Number nine in the eighth concession of the said Township of Bertie, containing by admeasurement one half acre of Land, to be appropriated to the erecting of an Episcopal Church, to the sole and proper use, benefit and behoof of the Church of England, Which said one half of an acre of Land is butted and bounded or may be otherwise Known as follows (that is to say) Beginning within Fifteen Links South of the North Angle between Lot Number Nine and ten in the eighth concession aforesaid Then West two chains and a half Then South two chains, Then East two chains and a half Then North two chains to the place of beginning, - To have and to hold the same with appurtenance freed and discharged from all encumbrances Whatsoever unto the said John Anderson, Henry Teal and Adolphus F. Meyer and their Successors in office for Ever, -- Which said Indenture is witnessed by Cyrenius Hall of the Township of Bertie, County of Lincoln, District and Province aforesaid, Doctor and William Creger of the same place Yeomen, and this Memorial thereof is hereby required to be registered by us the grantees therein named, --

WITNESS our hands and seals at Bertie aforesaid this 31st day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand Eight hundred and thirty Seven, -

SIGNED AND SEALED

in the presence of -----

John Anderson

Cyrenius Hall

Henry Teal

Thomas Campbell

A. F. Meyer

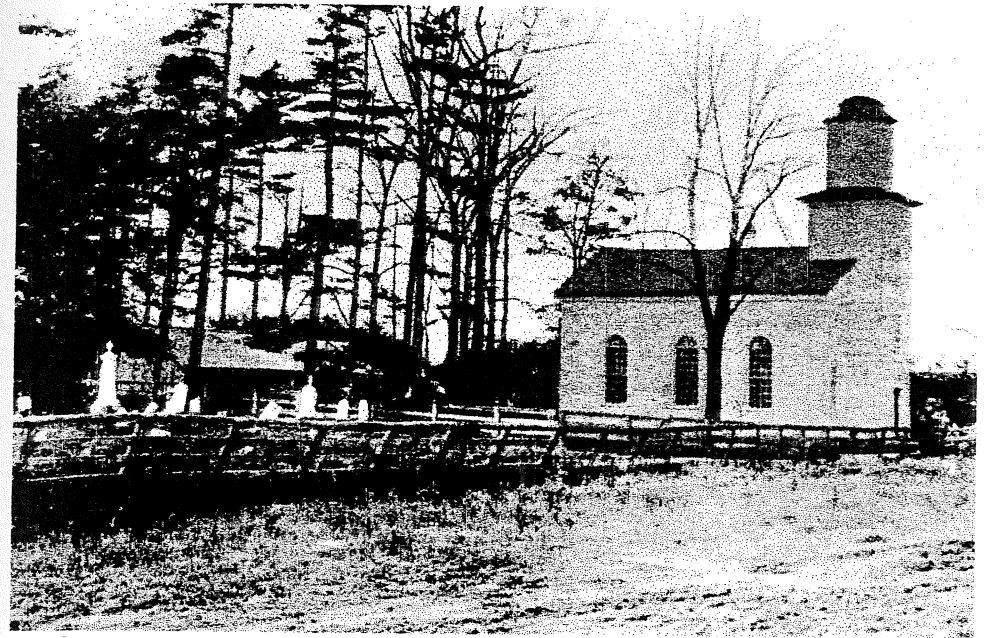
Josiah Henson, escaped slave and a great leader of his people, was associated with this community. He lived and worked on the Hibbard farm adjacent to St. John's Church. As an ordained Baptist minister he encouraged those who had gained their freedom to become self-sufficient through education and training and several years later opened an agricultural school at Chatham.

There were still some Black families in the area in the 1880's and '90's. Records and photos show that some attended the little red brick one room school located on the north side of Bowen Road at Pettit Road, the school where Ev Marchuck, a member of this parish, started her teaching career many years later.

After only 9 years of service to St. John's, Reverend Anderson died in 1849 and was interred near the west wall of St. Paul's Church where his marker stands today. He was succeeded by Reverend Elliot Grasett, M.A. and later by Reverend Henry Holland, M.A. Because of the broad responsibilities of the rectors, regular services were not held at St. Paul's until 1863 by Reverend Henry Greenham. We can judge from this that regular services were not held at St. John's either. When the rector was not present it is possible that congregations still gathered under the guidance of the wardens or lay readers as it happens sometimes today.

The design of St. John's is architecturally the same as the original St. Paul's Church which was also a small white frame building with a tower front and centre. It was constructed with local materials and labour, and with few exceptions the basic structure remains much as it was in 1840. In 1910 the chancel, sanctuary and two ante-rooms were added, the work carried out by Ben and Will Miller at a cost of \$500 and the stained glass window above the altar was installed and dedicated to the memory of the Reverend John Anderson. In 1928 the Guild provided the church with a marble font, in 1932 electric lighting was installed and in 1958 a bell, given by the CNR, was hung in the tower to summon parishioners to worship.

John L. Curtis broke the sod for the parish hall, added in 1957. It was designed by architect Donald Chapman and erected by contractor Henry



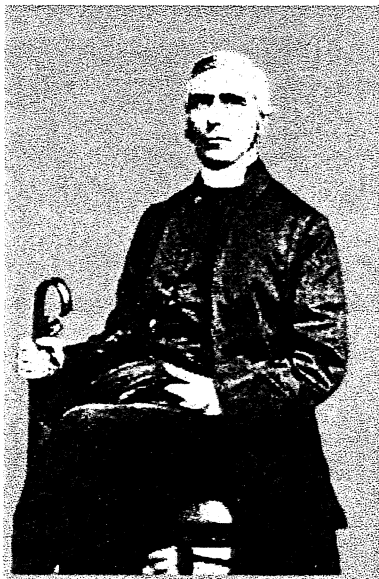
This was the church as it appeared a few years after Bishop Strachan's visit of 1846. At that time the chancel had not been added at the rear (note only three windows on the south wall as opposed to the present four). The horse barn can be seen among the trees in the background. A wooden fence surrounds the cemetery, the number of stones indicating that the church has been open a number of years. The dirt road gives an impression of the difficulty of travel in the 1800's.



Rev. John Anderson
Rector 1828 - 1849



Rev. Elliott Grasset, M.A.
Rector 1849 - 1859



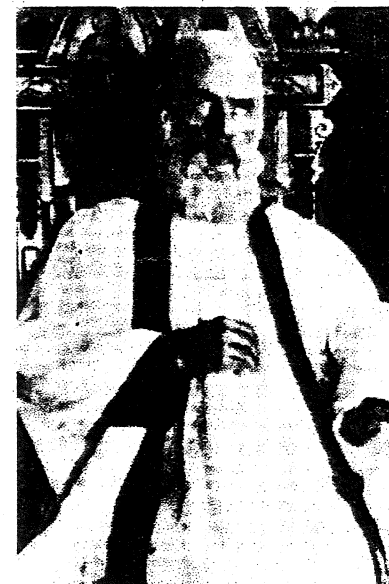
Rev. Henry Holland, M.A.
Rector 1859 - 1864



Rev. Henry Greenham
Rector 1864 - 1870



Rev. Canon Robert Arnold
Rector 1870 - 1888



Rev. Percy W. Smith
Rector 1888 - 1905



Rev. A. Cameron Mackintosh
Rector 1905 - 1917



Rev. Canon D. Russell Smith
Rector 1917 - 1926



John Strachan became Bishop of Toronto in 1840, the year in which St. John's Church was built, and made his first visit to the church in 1846 to confirm 63 people. He traveled thousands of miles throughout the Province, often by wagon, over rough roads, to conduct the Apostolic Right. On one trip to Sault Ste. Marie, a distance of 2500 miles, he confirmed 756 candidates.

Allender at a cost of \$35,000 with \$22,000 of that sum borrowed from the synod. This provided a place for the Sunday School, the meeting of various youth and adult groups, strawberry festivals, pancake dinners, bazaars and the annual play production which has been well received by the larger community for many years.

It was a festive occasion in 1965 when the church celebrated its 125th Anniversary and two years later burned the mortgage on the Parish Hall. On November 25, 1990 the 150th Anniversary was recognized.

The cemetery dates back to the founding of the church and was private at first. It was expanded on August 15, 1874 by the purchase of one-half acre of land from Joseph Shisler and wife, William Lowell and John A. Orchard by wardens Henry E. Miller and George Graham for the sum of \$40.00. The east part of lot 9 was purchased November 2, 1926 from Albert Shisler and wife by cemetery trustees James E. Laur and Thomas E. Lee and wardens John L. Curtis and George Durham for \$800. The west part of lot 9 was purchased June 29, 1953 from Allen Morningstar and wife by John L. Curtis and John R. Gilmour, wardens, for the sum of \$500.

From 1982-84 a study of the cemetery for the Ontario Genealogical Society was conducted by Denise d'Entremont, Emily Bennet, Beverly Craig, Harold Fox, Audrey Miller Laurie and Mabel St. Angelo. The stones were numbered, the inscriptions recorded and the data compiled in a comprehensive report completed in 1985. The oldest stone identified bears the following inscription:

**Elizabeth Miller
wife of
Andrew Miller
died
Oct. 20, 1841
aged 69 years**

Extensive renovations to the church were carried out in the spring and summer of 1964. The foundation was repaired, the exterior painted, the interior plastered, floors sanded and varnished, pews and wainscoting refinished, a new

carpet laid, and a new furnace installed.

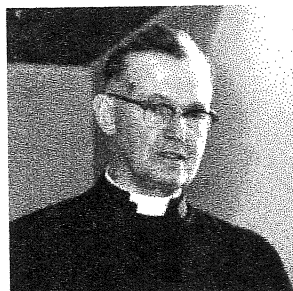
Now in 1998 there is a need for refurbishment. The cement walk and steps and the storm windows need to be replaced. The stained glass window must be cleaned and strengthened and the hall is in need of a new roof. Plans are underway to raise the necessary finances to complete this work.

Those attending the Church today sit in the same pews, look out through the same rippled glass windows and kneel at the same altar as the founding members 158 years ago and it is a blessing to know that the congregation today, sitting in those same pews and using the Book of Common Prayer, maintain the fellowship and religious devotion that was expressed by the founders.

When All Saint's was opened in 1927 the rector of St. Paul's, Archdeacon William Burt, served three churches (St. Paul's, St. John's, All Saint's) for a period of time as did his successor, Canon Basil Irwin who also conducted evening services at St. James Chapel on Dominion Road and arranged for a Sunday School at Crystal Beach. In 1954, to ease the management of the growing parish, a rector was engaged for All Saint's, the Reverend John Gerard, who took over the responsibility for worship at St. John's and it remains affiliated with the Ridgeway church to this day with the Reverend Andrew Murray as rector.



Archdeacon W. Burt
1926 - 1949



Canon W.B. Irwin
1949 - 1968

John Anderson's Letter to M. Higginson

Request for financial aid to complete the building of St. John's Church

Fort Erie, Sept. 13, 1844

Dear Sir,

In the month of November last I petitioned His Excellency, (Through Mr. Aylwin then Sol. Gen. For Canada East) for assistance to enable the Members of St. John's Church Township of Bertie to complete their Church -- not having received an answer to it, which no doubt, was owing to the multiplicity of business His Excellency had to perform at that time -- I therefore take the liberty of repeating my application and trespass upon His Excellency's well known generosity -- the members of the Church are all farmers -- principally Dutch and have done as much as their means will allow -- still it remains unfinished and will require a large sum to complete it -- May I therefore trouble you to bring the case under His Excellency's notice and beg his mite in behalf of St. John's Church Bertie -- I have the honor

to remain Sir

Your obt. Servt.

John Anderson

Rector of Fort Erie.

Sir,

Permit me on behalf of the congregation of St. John's Church Township of Bertie to return thanks to His Excellency for his handsome donation of ten pounds towards their Church -- received through our worthy representative James Cummings Esqr.

I have the honor to remain

Sir your obt. Servt.

John Anderson,

Rector of Fort Erie.

Letter of Institution and Induction

I, John Strachan, Doctor of Divinity, Rector of Toronto in the Province of Upper Canada, Archdeacon of York in the Diocese of Quebec and Commisary for this purpose generally appointed by the Right Reverend Father in God Charles James, by Divine Permission Lord Bishop of Quebec

*To my well beloved in Christ:
John Anderson, Clerk.*

Greeting:

By virtue of the authority aforesaid, I admit you to the Rectory or Parsonage at the Parish or Township of Waterloo Bertie in the County of Lincoln and District of Niagara to which you are presented by His Excellency Sir John Colborne, H.C.B. The Lieutenant Governor of the same Province, for and on behalf of our Sovereign Lord King William the Fourth the true and undoubted Patron thereof, And I do Canonically institute you to the said Rectory or Parsonage, and invest you with all and singular the rights Members and appurtenances thereunto belonging you having first before me inscribed the Articles and taken the Oaths which are in this case by law required to be subscribed and taken.

And I do by these presents commit unto you the care and the government of the inhabitants Members of the Church of England within the limits of the said Rectory or Parsonage, saving always to the said Lord Bishop and his successors Bishops of Quebec the Episcopal rights.

In testimony whereof the Episcopal Seat of the said Bishop is hereunto affixed, and I have subscribed the same.

Dated this ninth day of May in the year of our Lord One Thousand and eight hundred and thirty-six.

*John Strachan, D.D.
Archdeacon of York
Commissioner.*

From the Records

Weddings and baptisms of people whose names appear in later records of St. John's Church performed by Reverend John Anderson. Some of these family names appear among the members of the first Confirmation class at St. John's, June 18, 1846.

March 16, 1837

Henry Laur of Bertie Township married Isabella Graham.
Witnesses: Robert Graham
Edward Miller

May 8, 1837

Joseph Ward of Bertie Township married Mary Spedding
Witnesses: Peter Miller
Thomas Spedding

On the same day John Anderson baptized Deborah, daughter of Thomas Spedding and Magdalen Spedding.
Sponsors: Peter Miller, Deborah Miller, Magdalen Spedding.
(Was this to save time and travel?)

July 2, 1837

Baptized - Almeda, daughter of William Buck and Sarah.
Witnesses: Charles Hibbard (who sold the land on which St. John's was built.)
Elizabeth Hibbard
Sarah Buck

Jan. 2, 1837

Married - William Laur to Catharine Teal
Witnesses: Jacob Jansen
John Spedding

Dec. 25, 1839

"On the 25th day of December in the year of our Lord - One Thousand eight hundred and thirty-nine I baptized Helen, daughter of Reverend John Anderson, Rector of Waterloo, Fort Erie, and of Helen, his wife, born on the twenty-first day of October preceding.
John Anderson, Rector of Waterloo."

The Sponsors were: Alexander Douglas proxy for Horatio Anderson
Agnes Douglas* proxy for Elizabeth Yule*
Helen Alexander proxy for Margaret Catharine Yule*

*Sisters of Mrs. John Anderson. Therefore, Helen Anderson was the aunt and Rev. Anderson was the uncle of Dr. William Douglas, founder of Douglas Memorial Hospital.

Rectors of St. John's Anglican Church, Ridgemount

Rev. John Anderson - Opening of Church to 1849	
Rev. Elliot Grasset, M.A.	1849 - 1859
Rev. Henry Holland, M.A.	1859 - 1864
Rev. Henry Greenham	1864 - 1870
Rev. Canon Robert Arnold	1870 - 1888
Rev. Percy W. Smith	1888 - 1905
Rev. A. Cameron MacIntosh	1905 - 1917
Rev. Canon D. Russell Smith	1917 - 1926
Archdeacon William Burt	1926 - 1949
Rev. Canon W. B. Irwin	1949 - 1954

From its opening until the year 1954 the Church was served by the rectors of St. Paul's. From that time on it has been under the charge of the rectors of All Saint's Church, Ridgeway.

Rev. John Gerard	1954 - 1961
Rev. C.T. Stanger	1962 - 1968
Rev. James Wright	1968 - 1973
Rev. James Styles	1973 - 1977
Rev. Robert Lennox	1978 - 1981
Rev. Donald Seaver	1981 - 1984
Rev. Ben Martin	1984 (Feb. - Oct.)
Rev. Robert Harold	1984 - 1986
Rev. Alan Whitton	1986 - 1995
Rev. Andrew Murray	1995 -

During the affiliation with St. Paul's there was a sharing of news letters, activities and support. At one time, in the forties, some members of St. Paul's choir came out on Sunday afternoons to add their voices to those of St. John's - Jack Lewis and Fred Pring among others. There is now a sharing of news letters, special services and youth activities with All Saint's. Visiting choirs have added to the ministry of music over the past year.



The Institution and Induction

of

The Rev. William Burt

as

Rector of St. Paul's Parish
Fort Erie, Ontario

also

The Rite of Confirmation

on Monday, May 17, 1926

8 p. m. (Daylight Saving Time)

by

The Right Rev. Derwyn T. Owen, D. D.
Bishop of Niagara

Order of Service

Processional Hymn 381

Service of Institution and Induction
(Page 701 in the New Canadian Prayer Book)

Hymn 286

Sermon
The Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Niagara

Hymn 457

The Order of Confirmation
(Page 330 in the New Canadian Prayer Book)

Hymn 435 (*to be sung kneeling*)

Offertory Anthem

Closing Prayers

Benediction

Recessional Hymn 380

Archdeacon William Burt served St. John's Church
1926 - 1949

Monthly Notes

SEVENTH YEAR: No. 2 FORT ERIE, JANUARY, 1926 30c PER ANNUM

THE RECTOR'S LETTER

My Dear people:

The newly-elected Presiding Bishop, in the address he made when formally presented to the House of Deputies, gave an admirable slogan for the New Year on which we are entering. Three short sentences, but containing a program which, if realized, would mean a tremendous increase of spiritual power in this parish:

"I will pay my share

"I will pray my portion

"I will perform my part."

Having been appointed Rector of St. Jude's church, Oakville, may I in this my last report give a short account of my work in this parish. I came to Fort Erie May 1, 1917. During my incumbency I officiated at 464 Baptisms, 344 marriages, 248 burials and 235 were confirmed. During the past year there were 73 baptisms, 32 marriages, 41 burials and 77 confirmed.

All the reports presented by the officers of the churches have a balance on the right side of the ledger. This result was achieved by your loyal co-operation and generous support. If I have succeeded in accomplishing anything in this parish, it has not been of myself, but of the faithful co-operation of you, who, under God, I have been enabled to enlist with me in the prosecution of my plans. We have endeavored to practise the great truth stated by St. Paul when he said, in order that mankind might be made out—we are laborers together with God. It has been a great joy to labor with you. To God we ascribe all honor and glory for the realization of that degree of success that may have been ours.

Now, my friends, this happy ministry

must come to its conclusion. The associations that through the years have grown affectionate and strong must be severed. It is always a difficult task to bid friends farewell. May God mercifully forgive my mistakes. May he send to you a more faithful pastor. May He give you of His wisdom, His Power and His Presence that you may ever go forward, in the prayer of one who will always be your friend, though he now for the last time signs himself,

Your Rector,

D. Russell Smith

PARISH NOTES

Vestry meeting of St. John's and St. Paul's Monday, January 18; All Saints', Tuesday, January 19.

All Saints' Sunday School held their annual Christmas entertainment in the town hall, Ridgeway, on Tuesday, Dec. 22.

St. Paul's church was chastely decorated for the annual carol service. The large congregation was delighted with the singing and paid the organist and choir-leader, Mrs. Montillon, many compliments. Mr. H. Holmes generously provided the printed notices advertising the change in the time of holding this service. Mr. Willeox read the service as the Rector was officiating at Ridgeway.

Mr. M. Stuart, choir-leader of All Saints' church, is in the hospital at Niagara Falls. Mr. Stuart is also president of the A.Y.P.A. and vestry clerk.

The A.Y.P.A. held a social in St. Mary's parish hall on Monday, Dec. 29, and another in St. Paul's, Monday, Jan. 4.

St. Mary's Sunday School held a very successful entertainment Tuesday, Dec.

Canon Smith cont...

29. St. Paul's Sunday School held a supper in St. Paul's Wednesday, Dec. 30.

The A.Y.P.A. of Bridgeburg was re-organized with the following officers: Patron, the Rector; President, Miss M. McMurray; Vice-President, Mr. M. Knaggs; Treasurer, Miss I. Steane; Secretary, Miss Z. Knaggs. One hundred and ninety dollars was voted towards the parish hall building fund. Arrangements were made for the meeting on Dec. 14 and the social on Dec. 28. Regular meetings will be held on the second and fourth Mondays of the month in St. Mary's parish hall.

The Rev. Dr. Ibbott and his wife, assisted by Miss Harvey, provided an excellent program of music and recitations at the meeting on Monday, Dec. 14. Refreshments were served.

A social dance was held at St. Mary's parish hall on Monday, Dec. 28, and another at St. Paul's parish hall on Monday, Jan. 4.

Mr. B. Spear was given the contract to quarry the stone for the new church at Ridgeway at seven dollars per cord.

Mrs. Cotton, Cozy Dell, gave to All Saints' church, Ridgeway, a large Bible for the lectern.

During the month the following assisted the Rector: Rev. Dr. Ibbott, Rev. R. H. Brett, Mr. W. Brewer, Mr. Willcox and Rev. W. L. Armitage.

The Woman's Guild held a very successful meeting at the home of Mrs. J. Curtis on Wednesday, November 25. A large quilt was quilted. A meeting was held at the home of Mrs. J. Laur on Wednesday, December 30. The reports of the officers were received.

The amount collected in Fort Erie and Bridgeburg for the work of the British and Foreign Bible Society this year was two hundred and fifty dollars.

The members of St. John's Anglican church, Ridgeway, received a great shock on Sunday, Dec. 27, when their faithful friend and Rector, Canon D. Russell Smith announced that he would be leaving within a month to assume the Rectorship of St. Jude's Anglican church, Oakville. The sincere affection

accorded him by the members of his congregations and the wide circle of people of other denominations who were proud to call him friend, testify to his high character and outstanding abilities. During his eight years' rectorship of St. Paul's church, Fort Erie, and St. John's church, Ridgeway, the church has made remarkable growth. The nucleus of a beautiful parish hall has been erected in Bridgeburg, and a new church has been organized in Ridgeway. Although Canon Smith had an exceptionally onerous charge, he found time to give of his ability in civic affairs, and he will be greatly missed in the community. The good wishes and prayers of his many friends go with him to his new charge.

The ladies of the Guild of St. John's Anglican church deeply regret the loss of one of their most faithful and loyal members in the person of Mrs. D. Russell Smith. She was a friend to everyone and always glad to assist in any way possible the work of the church. The members of St. John's congregation wish her much happiness in her new home and field of labor.

Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Gilmour announce the engagement of their eldest daughter, Charlotte Esther, of All Saints' Mission, Lac la Ronge, Sask., to Allan S. Nunn, of Lac la Ronge, formerly of England. The marriage will take place at Lac la Ronge on Wednesday, January 13, at 10.30 a.m. (mountain time). Miss Gilmour is a missionary from St. John's Anglican church, Ridgeway, and has given a year and a half of missionary services to the work among the Indians at La Pas, Manitoba, and four years to the missionary cause in behalf of the Indians at Lac la Ronge, Sask. She expects to be able to continue her services to the great cause to some extent after her marriage as her home will be near All Saints' Mission.

WOMAN'S AUXILIARY

The Woman's Auxiliary met for the annual meeting on December 17 with

ANNUAL REPORTS

—OF—

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH
FORT ERIE

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH
BERTIE

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH
RIDGEWAY

1925

REV. CANON D. RUSSELL SMITH
Rector

MESSRS. FRED MILLER, J. W. BOND and W. J. HAWLEY
Lay Delegates

OFFICERS OF ST. PAUL'S CHURCH

Wardens—Messrs. Russell Harvey and William J. Hawley
Vestry Clerk—Mr. Albert Coulthurst
Auditors—Messrs. Allan King and A. E. Johnson
Organist and Choir Director—Mrs. Herbert Montillon
Sexton—Mr. Edward Thompson
Lay Reader—Mr. E. M. Wilcox

OFFICERS OF ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

Wardens—Messrs. John Curtis and George Durham
Trustees of Cemetery—Messrs. James Laur and Thomas Lee
Vestry Clerk—Mr. Fred Miller
Organist—Mr. William Miller
Sexton—Mr. B. Spear

OFFICERS OF ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

Wardens—Messrs. Frank Clark and James Talbot
Vestry Clerk—Mr. Melvin Stuart
Organist—Mrs. A. H. Skerrett

Contributors to St. John's Church 1925

Canon Smith	Mrs. W.H. Laur
Mrs. Henry Lewis	Mr. and Mrs. Merryweather
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Miller	Mrs. Eben Zimmerman
Mrs. Henry Miller	Mrs. P. Lichtenberger
Arden Miller	Mr. Charles Miller
Mrs. W.F. Miller	Miss Ruth Gilmour
Mrs. George Miller	Mr. Arthur Gilmour
Miss Alice Thomas	Mrs. Julia Heximer
Mrs. E.W. Huffman	Ralph Z. Curtis
Mrs. Lewis Durham	Orin Miller
Mrs. Wilfred House	Miss Constance Durham
Miss Florence Gilmour	Miss Mildred Jenks
Mrs. James Evelyn	Mr. and Mrs. John Rheim
Miss A. Miller	Mr. and Mrs. Ben Spear
Miss Beatrix Durham	Cecil Laur
Mr. George Durham	Miss Hilda Gilmour
Mr. and Mrs. John Curtis	No names for Easter
Mrs. Harry Beam	Mrs. John Miller
Mrs. Jenks	Miss Ruby Wade
Mr. Fred Rheim	Mr. and Mrs. Macklem
Mr. and Mrs. E.H. Reid	Mr. and Mrs. Campbell
Mrs. Fred King	Mr. William Rohr
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Spear	Mr. William Bowen
Mr. James Spedding	Mrs. S. Tripp
Mr. Coleman Wade	Mr. and Mrs. Shotwell
Mrs. A. Young	Ruth Evelyn
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Lee	Mrs. R. Laur
Grant Curtis	Murray Laur
Mr. and Mrs. James Laur	Mrs. Hanes
Mrs. Mareena Lee	Miss E. Beam
Mr. and Mrs. E. Miller	

From the Annual Reports of St. Paul's Church, St. John's Church and All Saint's Church, 1925
The Reverend Canon D. Russell Smith, Rector

Contributors to St. John's Church 1931

Burt, Rev. and Mrs. W.
Bennett, Mrs.
Bennett, Olive
Campbell, Mr. A. J.
Curtis, Grant L.
Curtis, Ralph Z.
Curtis, Mr. and Mrs. John L.
Durham, Lewis
Durham, Mr. George
Evely, Mrs. J.
Gilmour, Miss Hilda
Gilmour, Miss Ruth
Gilmour, Miss Florence
Gilmour, Miss B.
Gilmour, Miss Helen
Gilmour, Miss May
Gilmour, Arthur
Gilmour, James
Gilmour, Douglas
Hanes, Miss Mary
House, Mrs. W.
Huffman, Mrs. E. W.
Jenks, Miss Mildred
King, Mrs. Fred
Lee, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas
Lichtenberger, Mrs. P.
Laur, Mr. and Mrs. James
Laur, Murray
Laur, Cecil
Miller, Mrs. Caroline
Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Fred

Miller, Mrs. Henry
Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Harding
Merryweather, Mrs.
Miller, Mrs. George
Miller, Mr. and Mrs. E.
Miller, Orin
Miller, Henry
Middleton, Mr. M.
Nunn, Eileen
No Name
Rose, Mr. and Mrs. A.
Rheim, Fred
Rheim, Mr. and Mrs. John
Spear, Mr. and Mrs. Charles
Spear, Mr. and Mrs. Ben.
Spear, Esther
Thomas, Miss A.
Wale, Harold
Zimmerman, Mrs. Eban
Zimmerman, Phyllis

CONTRIBUTIONS TO N. W. MISSIONS

Miss Florence Gilmour
Fred Rehm
Mr. and Mrs. C. Spear
Mrs. Merryweather
Miss Ruth Gilmour
Miss Hilda Gilmour
Miss B. Gilmour
Miss Mav Gilmour
Eileen Nunn

**I love the good old Church of England
That wheresoe'er her roving children dwell
Builds there a house of God, and bids them pray
The self same prayers their fathers prayed of yore.
I love her ancient calm and piety,
Her noble grace and grand simplicity,
Her disregard for modern cavillings
Her decent forms that keep -- from week to week
And year to year -- an open path to Heaven.
And teach -- in plain, strong Anglo-Saxon words
Man's duty to his brother and his God.**

Acknowledgements

A booklet such as this and the historical display following the Memorial Service could not have been compiled and presented without the resources gathered and stored by others over the years. I would like to thank Doris Miller whose collection of pictures, clippings and booklets from past anniversary celebrations proved most valuable, Ethel Woehl for the original deed showing the transfer of land from the Parish to George Woehl in 1870, Mrs. Bateman for the pictures of pioneer transportation, Bea Painter, historian for St. Paul's Church, for the pictures of Archdeacon Burt and Canon Irwin, the librarians at Centennial Branch and Brock University and all others who in some way contributed to this project.

- Charles W. Davies