

MEMORABLE ANNIVERSARY TOMORROW AT ST. ELEANORS

Centennial Celebration At St. John's Anglican Church

Service Will Be Attended By Archbishop Worrel, Primate Of All Canada, And Five Clerical Sons Of The Parish, The History Of Which Is An Important Link With Early English Settlement Days.

On Sunday, July 10th, St. John's Anglican Church, St. Eleanors, will hold its Centennial Celebration at high noon, the Most Rev. Archbishop C. L. Worrel, D.D., Primate of All Canada, will be the celebrant at the Choral Communion service at 11 a. m.

St. John's Church is associated with the early English settlers on the island and is the oldest Church in the parish ranking next to St. Paul's Church, Charlottetown, in point of age.

The village of St. Eleanors is rich in history but unfortunately very little has been preserved, but these few facts of interest at this time, they were obtained partly from some of the oldest residents and partly from a diary kept by Hubert Compton, grandson of Col. Compton, who was the first English settler, and very kindly loaned to the Rector, Rev. Archdeacon White, by Mrs. Emily Compton of St. Eleanors.

Colonel Harry Compton, who was born in Marlborough, Middlesex, England, founded the village in 1704. He was at that time a captain in the Perth Highland Regiment of foot and was given a grant of twenty thousand acres of land on Prince Edward Island, half in Lot 10 and half in Lot 19, in recognition of his distinguished military service in the Irish Rebellion of 1798.

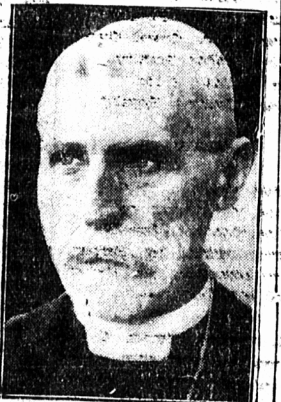
He married Charlotte Newman, daughter of the late Cardinal John Henry Newman, a noted churchman, in 1799.

of having dinner with his father, when a little lad, with the French priest, whose house, originally the Chapel, had been moved near the shore at North St. Eleanors. It was later moved to Miscouche, where the French families purchased ten thousand acres of land and settled there.

After Col. Compton's arrival other English families evidently of staunch Church of England stock came to St. Eleanors. In 1809 the Craswell family came and bought 208 acres of land in the village of St. Eleanors. In 1805 a George Tanton came. Other families were Green, Hope, Schurman, Fraser and Darby.

History of the Church
They were very anxious to establish a church, but it was not until the summer of 1823 that the Parish of St. Eleanors was granted a rector.

Will Attend



REV. C. L. WORRELL, Archbishop of Nova Scotia and Primate of All Canada, who will be present at tomorrow's Centennial Celebration at St. John's Anglican Church, St. Eleanors.

Rev. Theophilus DesBrisay was the first Church of England clergyman to take up residence on the island in 1775, and it was not until 1800 that the construction of the first church was begun in Charlottetown.

The coming of Rev. L. H. Jenkins to St. Eleanors was due to peculiar circumstances. In 1820 Rev. Mr. Jenkins was sent to St. Matthew's Church, Quebec, but owing to contrary winds his vessel put in to Charlottetown, where he remained at least for a time and married Miss DesBrisay, daughter of Rev. Theophilus DesBrisay. He afterwards went on to Quebec.

now the residence of Miss Kate Darby. In the report of Rev. J. W. Forsythe to the D. C. S. in 1865 he speaks of improvement made to the rectory.

Before the departure of Dr. Jenkins in 1826 the ground on which the church was to be built and also the churchyard were consecrated by Bishop Charles Inglis.

The site chosen was about a mile and a half from Richmond Bay inland, where a thriving village had by this time grown up.

Rev. A. V. G. Wiggins, rector from 1830-1851, preached his first sermon in the newly erected church on January 9th, 1831. The church building was then 48 by 30 feet with a tower 60 feet high.

Visit of Bishop Inglis
Evidently the church was not finished when Bishop Inglis again visited the parish in 1834 as he expressed disappointment in finding the church not finished. In describing this visit he says: "A fine morning after a rainy night. We set out from Charlottetown at an early hour, accompanied by Rev. Dr. Jenkins and Mr. Townshend, a candidate for Holy Orders. We found much of the road deep and rough, but Rev. Abram Wiggins met me and conveyed me as rapidly as possible to St. Eleanors. It was about five o'clock when we entered the church, which I regretted to find still unfinished, the congregation though respectable, was not so large as I had hoped to meet, and only eight persons were confirmed." On his return journey the good Bishop said, "Rev. Mr. Wiggins was overthrown from his gig in consequence of running against trees."

The rapid advance in travel that the island has made in the last hundred years is shown in the contrast of the Journey of Bishop Inglis to that of Bishop Worrel, who will be able to make the distance from Charlottetown to St. Eleanors next Sunday very comfortably in less than two hours.

On November 22, 1835 St. John's Church was destroyed by fire owing to the carelessness of a servant in carrying live coals to light a fire in the church stove. It was not until 1838 that the Church was rebuilt, and as the building is much larger than some of the earlier graves are within its walls.

Rev. W. W. Walker was sent to St. Eleanors in 1828 to replace Rev. Dr. Jenkins, who was appointed rector of St. Paul's taking Rev. Mr. Adin's place, who had resigned and returned to England.

St. Eleanors parish was honored in 1857 by their rector, Rev. J. H. Read, being made Ecclesiastical Commissary, and in 1860 he was elevated to the dignity of Archdeacon of Prince Edward Island; the present rector, Rev. Dr. White also holds that important office.

At that time the S. P. G. attached a stipend of 200 pounds sterling to this office to enable that dignitary to fulfill his duties to the State in a fitting manner.

Rev. J. W. Forsythe was the next rector of St. Eleanors and his work as recorded in some of the D. C. S. reports was very beneficial and many improvements went on during his term of office, from 1865-1873.

A bell for the Church was brought from England in 1855 and cost about 60 pounds sterling. The Church was repaired at this time and many improvements made to it.

Additional Land Obtained
A piece of land adjoining the rectory and fronting the road was secured at this time. Improvements were made to the rectory and owing to the energetic work of the ladies no debt was incurred.

Rev. Mr. Forsythe had under his charge at this time the Church at Summerside, Kensington and Wilmot Valley. He also conducted four Sunday Schools. His salary was 85 pounds sterling. He asked for a curate but was not granted one at the time. In his report of that year to the D. C. S. he said that the attendance at the Sunday School was good notwithstanding the difficulties of the country. He also referred to the loss of a library for the Summerside Sunday School, which occurred when the Steamer "Greyhound" went down.

The Church continued to grow under the guidance of Rev. Mr. Forsythe and in his report of 1869 there were 10 marriages, 35 baptisms, and 23 confirmed. Three persons were admitted to the Church by adult baptism.

In a report of Rev. T. S. Ritchey, the seventh rector, in 1881, the minister says, "There were 35 celebrations of Holy Communion, 26 baptisms, no marriages and 13 burials. Our Sunday evening congregation at Summerside always is larger during the autumn and winter months than during the summer."

The beautiful stained glass east window is in memory of the Craswell family. The names inscribed on the window are, James Craswell, died Feb. 21, 1885; Harriet Withers Craswell, Aug. 13, 1861; Louis William Craswell, June 3, 1872; Zilla Emily Craswell, July 18, 1913; Albert John Craswell, June 1917, and Ada Sophia Craswell, May 1, 1919.

The beautiful Bible on the Lectern was presented by the Society for the Promotion of Christian Knowledge and was printed in 1841.

A member of the Legislative Council and House of Assembly for many years. He died at "Richmond Cottage" overlooking Richmond Bay in 1864 at 88 years of age.

Many of Prince Edward Island's noted sons have their last resting place in the Churchyard at St. Eleanors.

There, a monument is erected to Hon. William Henry Pope, one of the Fathers of Confederation. A tablet, written in English and Latin, with this inscription, by the people of Prince County, is there: "William Henry Pope, Judge of County Court. Born in Bedouque 29th May 1826. He lived much in his native country. Appointed Judge 1873. He upheld the integrity and dignity of the Bench, while he delighted to administer eye-handled Justice. Died well beloved 7th October, 1873." A small tablet was affixed by the Abegweit Chapter of the I. O. E. in 1927 to commemorate his connection with the Confederation of Canada.

Hon. Joseph Pope, who died in Charlottetown in 1895 and who represented Prince County for twenty-three consecutive years in the Legislative Assembly, has a monument to his memory erected there.

James College Pope, second son of Hon. Joseph Pope, who represented Prince County on several occasions in the Legislature and did much for the Island, and died in 1885, lies near his father.

H. N. Hope opened a store in the Hooper house and was the first to pay the farmer two shillings and six-pence for a bushel of oats. George Linkletter, an Empire Loyalist, who settled in Lot 16 in 1783, and great grandfather of Mr. Herbert Sharp of Summerside was one of the first to trade with the French settlers. Until trade began to open up between the United States and Canada when the Intercolonial Railway was built, the shipping was all on the North side of the island and Richmond Bay was the port for Prince County.

A place called the Old Store, near Oliver McCormack's farm in North St. Eleanors was what one might call "the trading post."

Many schooners were built on the farms in St. Eleanors and hauled by oxen to the water's edge.

Among the early shipbuilders were Hon. Samuel Green, John Ramsay, Robert Milligan and James Sharp.

One of these vessels built by Robert Milligan in 1844 made the passage to England in fourteen days. The first ship to be launched in Summerside Harbour was built by

James Sharp and hauled by several teams of oxen in the winter time down to the ice to await the spring opening. The fully rigged ship complete in every detail caused a good deal of excitement in the village, especially among the school children. The snowy oxen straining at their task and the graceful ship, seemed like a poetic conception of a cartoonist portraying a kindred connection of the land and sea.

The country around St. Eleanors was thickly wooded with good trout and salmon fishing, and a great deal of game.

There were two hotels in the village, one, "The Ness" which was burnt down on Sunday, April 3, 1832, and was the property of Collins Craswell. The other was the "Old American" now occupied by Mr. Emery Lyle and his family. When the Supreme Court was held there were many visitors came and enjoyed the comforts of the hostels and the beautiful scenery. The Court House, which stood where the High School now is, was built in 1833, but in 1871 the County Seat was removed to Summerside. The Court met for the first time

in Prince County at St. Eleanors in November, 1834, an act having been passed in 1833 that the Supreme Court should hold its terms at Georgetown in March and July and at St. Eleanors in June and November, of each year. Hon. E. Jarvis was the first Judge to preside at St. Eleanors.

The early settlers were very desirous that their children should receive an education and teachers were eagerly sought. The first school in St. Eleanors was opened in 1820 by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Pope, Harry C. Green, who after wards became the postmaster at Summerside was one of their pupils. A Mr. Sherlock was the next school master and kept school in a log cabin on Montgomery's Corner.

In 1827, a William Coats came out from Suffolk, England, and owing to his uncommon culture and refinement he soon found employment, having as pupils the families of the Greens, Darbys, Craswells, Schurman's, and Howatts.

A church school was erected on a corner of the church lot but after the Public School Act came into force it was put up for auction and hauled down to North St. Eleanors. The Court House was used as a School House after the Court removed to Summerside, until the present school was built.

Most of the business men who had stands in St. Eleanors have long ago gone but are still remembered by the older inhabitants. There are many descendants of the original families still living and prospering in the village and surrounding districts; happy and contented with well kept farms. They still remain loyal and true to the Church of their fathers and the celebration of the one hundredth anniversary of St. John's Church will be an epoch in their history which will long be remembered. May any other hundred years hence find St. Eleanors stronger than ever for the Church and all it stands for.

| RECTORS OF ST. ELEANORS PARISH | |
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| From its inception to present date. | |
| L. H. Jenkins, 1821-1828. | |
| W. W. Walker, 1828-1830. | |
| A. V. S. Wiggins, 1830-1851. | |
| H. J. Reid, 1851-1864. | |
| J. W. Forsythe, 1865-1873. | |
| T. B. McLean, 1874-1876. | |
| T. S. Ritchey, 1876-1885. | |
| K. Richardson, 1885-1886. | |
| C. F. Lowe, 1886-1893. | |
| F. E. J. Lloyd, 1893, (7 mos.) | |
| A. Osborne, 1894-1898. | |
| J. M. Withycombe, 1898-1900. | |
| T. C. Mellor, 1901-1904. | |
| W. B. Sissam, 1904-1906. | |
| F. M. Webster, 1906-1911. | |
| C. de W. White, 1911 to date. | |

Scene of Celebration



ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, ST. ELEANORS

Sons of St. John's

Given below are the six sons of St. John's Parish who have taken Holy Orders. They have all had notable careers and have taken high honours in their chosen profession. With the exception of Rev. Chas. White, they will all be present at tomorrow's centenary celebration.

Ven. Archdeacon C. de W. White, M.A., D.D., Archdeacon of Prince Edward Island, and the present rector of St. John's Church, St. Eleanors, which office he has held for twenty-one years. Dr. White was born in Shelburne, N.S., July 15, 1869. He attended Collegiate School, Windsor, N.S., 1888-1889, matriculated into King's College, 1886, graduated with B. A. in 1890. B. A. ad eundem, Trinity College, Toronto, 1901. Made Deacon in Christ Church, Shelburne, N. S., June 12th, 1892. Ordained priest in St. Paul's Church, Halifax, May 20th, 1894. Curate at Parrsboro, N. S., 1892-1894. Rector at Christ Church, New Ross, 1894-1900.

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REV. INNIS E. FRASER, B. A. Who will preach at 11 o'clock service.



REV. CECIL F. WIGGINS, D. D.



REV. PERCY COTTON, B. A.



REV. C. DE W. WHITE, M.A., D.D., Archdeacon of P. E. I. and Rector of St. John's Church, St. Eleanors.



REV. THOMAS H. HUNT, D. D.



REV. CHAS. DE W. WHITE, B. A.



REV. A. E. ANDREW, M.A., M.C., who will be the preacher at the evening service.



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