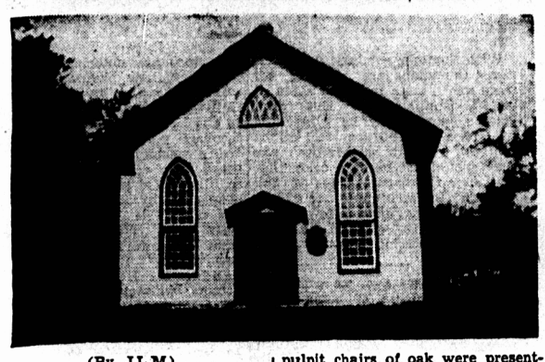
Church At West Covehead Recalls Pioneer Activities



(By J.L.M.)

In an enchanting secluded spot, surrounded by trees at the intersection of two roads in West Covehead, is a quaint little church, which was erected over one hundred and twenty years ago, as far as can be learned. It is the St. James United Church of Canada, and the plaque on the outside wall near the entrance reads, "The First Established Presbyterian Church on Prince Edward Island, 1806."

This is the second building. The first one was built on the farm of Mr. Donald MacMillan on the shore of Covehead Bay and a number of years later moved one mile south to the farm of Mr. Stephen Higgins. The present church is located on the west end of Mr. Higgins' property.

A record, not excelled in many churches in the Province, is that ten ministers were able to carry on continuous service in this congregation for one hundred and forty-three years.

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The history of this parish is interesting, dating back to 1791, when Rev. James McGregor, D. D., Presbyterian missionary, on his first visit to Prince Edward Island spent two weeks preaching at Covehead. He had landed at Charlottetown, where he hired a horse to ride to this community, fifteen miles away, on the only road on the Island at that time.

He was entertained at the home of Mr. John Miller. In 1770 several families had migrated to this section, but there was no settled minister, so a number of these pious and intelligent men, Messrs. David Lawson, William D. Lawson, John Auld, Robert Auld, Duncan MacCallum with his sons James and Neil, John A. Douglass, James, Charles and Peter Gregor, associated with Mr. Miller, and conducted religious service as well as visiting the sick.

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Dr. McGregor again visited this district in 1802, also in 1806 when he assisted in the induction of Rev. Peter Gordon, the first Presbyterian minister to settle on Prince Edward Island, into the pastoral charge of Covehead, St. Peters and Fortune. The ministry was of short duration due to ill-health.

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The following item, following the death of Mr. Gordon, from Dr. McGregor's diary is of sentimental interest: "In 1809 Mr. Gordon died and I went to comfort his widow and, as Mrs. McGregor had also passed away, the expression of mutual sympathy in our bereaved condition rendered such visits a solace to my own spirit, and in 1812 we were married."

The induction service of the succeeding minister, Rev. Edward Pidgeon, was in charge of Dr. John Keir and Dr. McGregor; the next pastor placed over this congregation was Rev. Robert Douglass, whose induction took place in October, 1821.

On this occasion the first Presbytery of Prince Edward Island was constituted, according to a Deed of Synod. During his incumbency the congregation expanded so that it was necessary to make two divisions — West St. Peters and Cove Head being disjoined from East St. Peters and Bay Fortune.

In 1846 Rev. James Allan was ordained and inducted. So rapidly did the number of worshippers increase that it was compulsory to separate West St. Peters from Cove Head, leaving Mr. Allan in charge of the latter place. After a ministry of forty-four years, Mr. Allan was succeeded by Rev. George B. MacLeod. Reverends Joseph Johnston and W. T. D. Moss served but one year each. The next minister was Rev. Jacob K. Layton, who was followed by Rev. William H. Spencer. In 1917, Rev. T. A. Wilson, was inducted and continues in the pastorate to the present time.

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Across one end of the church is a gallery. Many years ago the high pulpit was remodelled; new pews replaced the boxed-in ones; and the walls have been redecorated from time to time. The three pulpit chairs of oak were presented in memory of Mrs. John MacDonald by her sister, Mrs. Murray; the matching communion table was dedicated in 1944 in memory of Mrs. T. A. Wilson by her husband and sister; and a beautiful memorial window to Mr. Frank Beer Auld, Elder, was presented by his wife in 1945 and dedicated by Rev. T. A. Wilson.

The singing of praise for many years was led by a precentor and eventually an organ was purchased, the same one being still in use. Miss Florence Shaw, the late Mrs. J. W. Shaw, was the first organist, the present one, Mrs. Albert Reid.

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On August 22, 1906 a Centenary was held at this church to celebrate the anniversary of the first Presbyterian minister to that congregation, descendants of Rev. Peter Gordon's parishioners. His Honor, Lieutenant-Governor MacKinnon, presided and delivered the opening address. He contrasted the present condition of the Island with what it was one hundred years ago, the present being a time of great prosperity.

A prominent feature of the day was the unveiling of tablets to the memory of Reverends Gordon, Douglass and Allan. One was unveiled by Dr. Baxter to his grandfather, Rev. Peter Gordon. Addresses were delivered by Reverends George Miller, W. H. Spencer, T. F. Fullerton, Dr. Falconer, the Moderator of the Presbyterian General Assembly, and James McG. Baxter, M.D. The elders in 1906 were Messrs. James G. MacCallum, David H. Auld, George Matheson, Alex MacCallum and Ralph Carr.

When Rev. Mr. Wilson had completed twenty-five years of his ministry, he was presented with a beautiful silver tea service by the congregation, and an Anniversary cake by the Sunday School pupils. The ministers who took part in this Anniversary Celebration were: Reverends, John Stirling, W. A. MacQuarrie, A. S. Weir, with Hugh Miller presiding.

The present session is composed of Messrs. Wendell MacMillan, Gregor MacCallum, David MacDonald and Vernon Proude.

In the adjoining cemetery, interesting epitaphs are recorded on the headstones, which mark the last resting place of many of the pioneers of the settlement, who in their religious instruction and conscientious discharge of their duties did much to advance the cause of Christianity.

"MONSTROSITY" TONED DOWN

BLAKENEY, Norfolk, England—(CP)—Inhabitants of this fishing village, proud of their flint cottages, won their battle against a "monstrosity" of pink bricks which "grew up suddenly" in their midst. The new house now will be painted with cream wash and its asbestos roof replaced with tiles.

IN MEMORIAM

In loving memory of

BRUCE BURNS

Died June 27th, 1947.

Many a lonely heartache
Often a silent tear
But always, a beautiful memory
Of the one we loved so dear.

When the evening shades are falling
And our thoughts are wandering home,
In our hearts there comes a longing,
If he only could come home.

Oft and oft our thoughts do wander
To a grave not far away,
Where they laid our darling Bruce
Just two years ago today.

Never Forgotten by His Wife and Family.

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CENTRAL GUARDIAN

This column is reserved for news of local interest, but advertising of a newsy nature may be inserted at five cents a word, strictly payable in advance.

COOKS for photographs.

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P. E. ISLAND CHEDDAR CHEESE. Ask your grocer for it.

BELCANO SUN TAN CREAM, $1.10 at Cosmetic Dept. S. A. McDonald.

CIVIC TAXES — June 30th is final date for payment of second installment City of Charlottetown taxes.

S. A. McDONALD'S offer Charles of the Ritz Sun Tan Oil and Cream at $1.45, Cosmetic Dept.

REMEMBER your annual school school meeting and plan to attend Tuesday, June 28.

SCHEDULED FLIGHTS daily to Summerside and Moncton. Phone Maritime Central Airways Limited, 2061 or 540.

CIVIC TAXES — Interest at the rate of ½% per month will be charged on City of Charlottetown second installment of taxes if not paid by June 30th.

CAVENDISH — A Missionary, Miss Mattie Curry, from Tuni, India, will speak in the Baptist Church on Tuesday, June 28th, at 8 P.M. Cordial invitation to everybody.

JACK CAMERON—Men's Wear, a choice selection of Suits, Sports Jackets, Slacks, etc. Moved to temporary quarters over Toombs Music Store.

LEAVING FOR MONTREAL. — Mr. and Mrs. Manning Bagnall are leaving this morning for Montreal to attend a Convention of the "25 Grand Club" of Investment Distributors Limited. They will also visit in Ottawa for a few days before returning.

DO YOU KNOW that 600 blood donors are needed at the Clinics to be held in Summerside, Charlottetown, Montague and Souris on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of this week in order to maintain the supply required for transfusions in this province during the next three months? Be a Blood Donor this week.

GRADE VIII CERTIFICATES—The following pupils of Hunter River School were successful in passing the Grade VIII government test, making high marks. In order of merit: Harold Bernard, June Spence, Winnifred Newman, Bonar Nicholson, Ross Matheson. D.L. Cairns, teacher

FUNERAL FRIDAY — The funeral of Ena Mae Smith was held from the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Smith, Pleasant Valley on Friday afternoon, June 24th. The service at the house and grave was conducted by Rev. W. B. MacPhail. The pallbearers were: Freeman MacLennan, Lloyd MacLennan, Donald MacLeod and Murdock Buchanan. Interment in Pleasant Valley cemetery.

COMMUNITY WELFARE PRESENTATION — On the evening of June 18th a committee, representing the settlements of New Perth, Summerville, Union Road and Baldwin's Road, called on Mr. John T. Mellish, New Perth, merchant (who had been a patient in the King's County Memorial Hospital, Montague, for several weeks last winter, and underwent a major operation) and presented him with a suitable address and a well-filled purse, subscribed by his neighbors and friends accompanied by their best wishes for his future success in business. The presentation was made by Mr. Wm. Minchin, treasurer of the committee. Mr. Mellish was completely taken by surprise, but in his usual pleasant manner, thanked one and all for their generous and much appreciated gift and friendly contact. He also thanked the committee for their time spent on his behalf.

HUNTER RIVER SCHOOL PICNIC—The pupils and teachers and parents of Hunter River school district held their annual picnic at Cavendish beach on the afternoon of June 24th. The early part of afternoon was spent in bathing and romping along the beach. At 3.15 Mr. George Nesbit took charge of the sports program. Each event was keenly contested, the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners receiving ribbons on which were printed "Hunter River School Sports, June 24, 1949." This was followed by presentation of prizes to the ones making the highest marks in each grade, to the ones having the neatest exercise books, to the ones with the highest attendance, and the presentation of Grade Eight certificates. Humorous and skillfully written addresses were read to both teachers, Mr. D. Lester Cairns, principal, and Miss Lois Simpson, assistant, expressing sincere regrets at their leaving, accompanied by the presentation of valuable gifts. In a few well chosen words the pupils were thanked for their thoughtfulness, and kindly words. A sumptuous lunch and a generous treat of ice cream brought a very enjoyable afternoon to a close.

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Religion And Life

By Very Rev. George C. Pigeon
First Moderator of the United Church of Canada
(Copyright)

"Dull students should be shut out of the university."

So said a noted scholar and teacher. Attention had been drawn to the numbers crowding into our educational institutions and this was one remedy suggested. It would be a colossal blunder.

Last week we drew attention to one reason for the gold-medalist's success—he concentrated on the task before him. There may have been other explanations, but this was to the fore. Others with equal ability had scattered their energies over a variety of interests but he made mastery of the task assigned as his objective. But there were many students who worked with similar diligence and determination who won no distinction. Perhaps they had been denied educational advantages in early years; perhaps they were slow in their development; more likely, they lacked the gifts of their more distinguished fellows. But not a few of those men who toiled earnestly with meagre success will be among the first in the end. Life is not a hundred-yard dash, but a marathon; many who start with a burst of speed will be unable to keep it up through life's long day; others who start slowly will have the endurance to quicken their pace to the end. And it is the one who "endures to the end" who wins the laurel crown.

Diligence Rewarded

There is a New Testament parable which deals with this subject—the Talents in Matthew 25: 14-30. A man going on a long journey called his servants and entrusted to them his possessions. To one he gave five talents, to another, two, and to another, one—to each according to his ability. When he returned he found that the man with the five talents had made five more, and the man with the two talents two more. Here is the significant point—the man who out of two made two received the same commendation and the same reward as the man who with five talents made five. As one has put it: "Unequal gifts with equal diligence was equally rewarded." It was diligence that counted.

"In God's clear light high work we do
If we but do our best."

Theodore Roosevelt once said:

"There are two kinds of success. One is the very rare kind that comes to the man who has power to do what no one else has the power to do. That is genius. . . . Only a very limited amount of the success of life comes to persons possessing genius. The average man who is successful—the average statesman, the average public servant, the average soldier, who wins what we call great success—is not a genius. He is a man who has merely the ordinary qualities which he shares with his fellows, but who has developed those ordinary qualities to a more than ordinary degree. . . . In public life it is not genius, it is not extraordinary subtlety of acuteness of intellect that is important. The things that are important are the rather commonplace, the rather humdrum virtues that in their sum are designated as character. If you have in public life men of good abilities, with character — and, gentlemen, you must include common sense as one of the most important elements of character—if you possess such men, the government will go on very well."

For such encouragement we Canadians can thank God at this turn in our history.

Character Drives

Once I visited a man so weak that he could not raise his head. He had been famous as the strongest man and doughtiest fighter in the district, but his heart had given out and those splendid muscles he could not use. Now, what a sound heart and good constitution are to muscles, character is to our intellectual endowments — the strength of mind and will that directs their use and drives them to their best. A two-talent man with character will outstrip the five-talent man without it. We know many cases in every sphere of action where men with brilliant gifts gave out and quit before they had passed the half-way mark.

There are also many who start with only two talents but develop unsuspected power as they proceed. In one college function we were told of case after case who could reach only second-class standing or even lower in their first or second year, but who rose higher as they went on until they graduated at the top. It would be unfair to call them two-talent men when the other three talents were at first undeveloped and unknown, but they had only the two at the start.

Cultivate Talents

Use your talent whatever it may be. Claim your right to an opportunity for its use. The only unpardonable sin is burying your talent in the earth. One such man had only a single talent to begin with, and he tried so hard to cultivate it that he nearly killed himself in his first year of preparation; then he found a teacher who discerned in him powers hitherto unsuspected and guided him in their development. He became one of the best scholars and most resourceful thinkers of his time. His start in life's long marathon was unpromising, but he finished his course with joy. This was his favorite quotation—and he repeated the first line just before the end:

"Give me the day with its sun in the west
And hear what it has to say;

Give me the year as it neareth its rest
In the glow of the Autumn day;
Give me the life where the path is unrolled
To the shores of God's limitless sea—
For the end is the test; and the tale that is told,
Be it written in grayness of silver, or gold,
Is the tale of eternity."

SEEK NEW ALLOY

A search for substitutes for manganese, vital alloying metal in practically all steel, is being conducted by the Canadian Bureau of Mines.

JAY — WHITE NUPTIALS

On the evening of June 16th at 7.30 p.m. a quiet wedding took place at the United Church, Charlottetown, when Viola Mae, only daughter of Mrs. Melvin Jay and the late Melvin Jay, became the bride of Clifford Nelson, son of George White of Framingham, Mass., and the late Mrs. White. Rev. Dr. Dudley was the officiating clergyman and the double ring ceremony was used.

The bride choose for her gown a street length pink morie with matching hat of mohair and roses. She wore a corsage of pink roses, baby breath and a double string of pearls, a gift of the groom and carried a good luck horseshoe with flowers and white ribbon, a gift from Mrs. J. N. Dall (nee Queenie Hudson), England. The bride was attended by Miss Ruth MacLean, gowned in a blue crepe with natural straw hat and a corsage of pink roses. Mrs. Jay, mother of the bride wore black crepe with pink sheer and lace yoke with matching hat and a corsage of pink roses.

Mr. Don Holden supported the groom.

The bride's gift to the bridesmaid was a gold compact and the grooms gift to the groomsman was a leather billfold.

Following the ceremony a reception was held at the Queen Hotel. The bride's table was centred with a threetier wedding cake topped with a miniature bride and groom and the guest table with red roses. The toast to the bride was proposed by Elmer MacLauchin and responded to by the groom. Mr. and Mrs. White left next morning by bus for Boston, and Rhode Island, Conn. For travelling the bride choose tomato red suit with matching hat and white accessories. On their return they will reside in Charlottetown.

Previous to their marriage the bride was guest of honour at several showers. Her lovely gifts included a coffee table from the staff of S. A. MacDonald, where she was employed, also a trilight lamp from the Atlantic Wholesalers where the groom is employed.

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Mount Allison Music Examinations

At the recent music examinations for pianoforte playing, conducted by Dr. Alfred Whitehead, Dean of Music at Mount Allison, the following pupils were successful, Dr. Whitehead making special mention of the high standard of playing.

Grade I Piano: Fay Hickox, distinction; Sandra Squarebriggs, 1st class honors; Janet Skinner, 1st class honors; Florence Douglas, 1st class honors; Janet Mingo, honors; Evelyn MacKay, honors.

Grade II Piano: Freddie Hickox, 1st class honors; Carold Stavert, 1st class honors; Roddie Hickox, 1st class honors; Jean MacLeod, 1st class honors; Winnifred MacPherson, 1st class honors; Barbara Jenkins, 1st class honors; Betty Foster, 1st class honors Frank Hayley, honors; Jean MacDonald, honors.

Grade III Piano: Shirley MacKay, honors; Marlene Balderstone, honors; Jimmy Walker, honors.

The above are pupils of Mr. Frank Johnson, A.T.C.L., organist of Zion Church.

LOTS OF TIMBER

Russia has a forested area of about 3,500,000 square miles

Dorothy Dix Says —

(Continued from Page 2)

you at all. He is merely of a sentimental jag. He's in a frame of mind when he wants to kiss his grandmother, and when he gets over it and comes to his senses he expects the girl to whom he has sworn undying devotion to forget it as he does.

But why do you bother your head about a boy who only makes maudlin love to you when he is soused? Fate could wish no worse curse on you than the kind of husband such a man makes. Don't even be "kinda puzzled" about him. Turn your thoughts toward some lad who is better husband material.

DOROTHY DIX

DEAR MISS DIX: I am in love with a boy that I don't really know. Fell in love with him at first sight six years ago and my blood pressure still rises when I see him. I only know him well enough to say "hello." How can I get to know him? Perhaps I wouldn't care for him if I did meet him. What is the surest cure?

DEARIE

ANSWER: If you know him well enough to say "hello" to him you surely know him well enough to invite him to a little party at your house. Acquaintances are made much more casually these days than they used to be, so it will be perfectly proper for you to include him among your guests at an informal little affair.

Perhaps he is the real one. Perhaps you would be disillusioned if you met him. But, anyway, the surest way to find out is by getting acquainted with him.

DOROTHY DIX

DOROTHY DIX cannot reply personally to readers, but will answer problems of general interest through her column.

SOUTHAMPTON, England — (CP)—A bus was taken out of service for a mouse hunt. Gas was pumped into the upholstery. A mouse ran out, and there was a chase. It was caught but not before biting its captor's thumb.

CALCUTTA, India — (CP)—Two rhinos, Raja and Ranee, from the Assam forests en route to Cairo, are drawing large crowds at the local zoo. Among other exhibits sent from Assam was a baby elephant.

Island Postmasters at Maritime Meet

Above is pictured the P. E. I. group of delegates to the annual meeting of the Maritime Branch of the Canadian Postmasters Association held at the Charlottetown Hotel, June 15th-16th. —Photo by Garnhum

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