

Interesting History Attaches To St. Stephen's Church At Irishtown

By L. E. T.

(Continued from Saturday's Issue)

In 1903 St. Stephen's Church people decided to build a new and larger church to their church. Some gave money, some lumber, and some labour. But the biggest effort was the tea party held in July, 1903, on the Paynter farm then owned by William J. Paynter, a great-grandson of the original Paynter who settled there in 1821. It is good to note here that the home is now owned by Leigh Paynter, son of William J. Paynter, so in this family the prop-

erty ownership and church tradition is carried on unbroken. The tea party was a success and netted over \$300.00. We do not remember exactly but the price of the meal was no more than 35 cents, perhaps only 25 cents, so that many meals would have to be served to make \$300.00. While the alterations to the church were being carried out the Sunday services and the Sunday School sessions were held in Sea View school which was always filled to overflowing. The church which is 18½ x 21 feet with a vestry on

either side was an immense improvement to the church. A fire ceiling was put in the main church at the same time and the seats were carpeted. Mr. Winfield left copious notes and reports. He referred to the stormy winters, the bad roads, in winter the trains did not run for three weeks. He found the care of a horse an added chore, but whenever it was possible he held regular services besides going into the highways and byways to try to bring in many who were Anglicans only in name. He spent five

busy years in the parish, and in spite of the hardships he lived to the great age of ninety-two years. In 1905 he went to a parish in the Diocese of Fredericton. He revisited St. Stephen's people several times and was always welcome. From 1905 to 1910 the Reverend A. W. Nicholls was rector of the parish. The members of St. Stephen's Church were much attached to Mr. Nicholls. He visited their homes, married their young people, baptized their children and buried their dead. There were sore hearts when he left in 1910, for a parish in Cape Breton. He later went to Arizona and died there a comparatively young man. His wife and daughter now live in Berkeley, California. Mr. Nicholls was followed by the Reverend A. W. Watson, later archdeacon and clerical secretary for the Diocese. The work at St.

Stephen's was carried on faithfully during the summer months, with the occasional break in winter caused by storms, but the storm had to be very bad in those years to prevent either rector or people from getting to church. There were no government snowplows but there were always plenty of strong farm horses and willing workers with their shovels to keep the roads open. So according to our recollection there was usually a Sunday service in St. Stephen's Church even in winter weather. For seven years Mr. Watson did the strenuous work connected with the parish, then went to St. James Church, Pictou. He and his wife are now enjoying well earned retirement at Granville Ferry, Nova Scotia. The Reverend C. W. and Mrs. Neish and family of two daughters and two sons were the next to

occupy the rectory from 1917 to 1922. Mr. Neish literally trod where the saints (his predecessors) had trod over the weary miles between the churches. St. Stephen's Church people had their full quota of services and the Sunday School was well maintained. Mr. and Mrs. Neish are now retired also, living near Halifax. Their sons and daughters have gone to live in homes of their own. Now we come to the rectorship of the Reverend G. T. Spriggs who came to the parish from Alberton in the spring of 1923. Mr. Spriggs came from England and was trained at Wycliffe College, Toronto. He first worked in the Diocese of Rupertland. He and his wife were married in Winnipeg by the late Archbishop Matheson. Mr. Spriggs served in the first World War, and when he returned from overseas service he

took up work in the Diocese of Nova Scotia. St. Stephen's Church people well remember Mr. Spriggs and his preaching and teaching. He left here in 1933 for the parish of Sydney Mines and is now living in semi-retirement in Lachute, Quebec. Mrs. Spriggs died in April, 1953. The next rector, the Reverend Benjamin Fream, also an Englishman and a Wycliffe graduate, came in June, 1934. His eight years' service is so recent, with its honest painstaking work, that it is not forgotten even by the youngest people. No new work was attempted at St. Stephen's but everything was carried out decently and in order and there was general regret when he left in 1942 for the parish of Roundhill in the deanery of Annapolis, Nova Scotia. He is now in the parish of Westphal near Dartmouth, N. S. The Reverend Harry F. Newman followed Mr. Fream. A Canadian, born in Toronto, and a graduate of Wycliffe College, his two years as rector passed quickly, and in July, 1944, he and Mrs. Newman left to do missionary work in Kanara, India. They are now in the Diocese of Toronto.

Sheriff's Sale

By virtue of A Supreme Court Writ of Fieri Facias to me directed at the suit of Canadian Oil Company Limited vs Stanley Baker commanding me to seize and sell sufficient of the Debtor's assets to satisfy the amount of the levy marked on the execution being the sum of Nine hundred and six 78/100 dollars (\$966.78) together with interest at the rate of five per cent per annum on the sum of Eight hundred and seventy-two 03/100 dollars (\$872.03) from the 17th of January A.D. 1953 to the present besides Sheriff's poundage, officers fees and all other expenses of the execution:—

And by virtue of a Supreme Court Writ of Fieri Facias to me directed at the suit of Erwin Champion vs Stanley Baker, Summerside commanding me to seize and sell sufficient of the Debtor's assets to satisfy the amount of the levy marked on the execution being the sum of Six hundred and fifty-one 63/100 dollars (\$651.63) together with interest at the rate of five per cent per annum on the sum Six hundred and seventy-nine 33/100 dollars (\$679.33), etc. etc.

I have seized and will set up and sell at Public Auction on Wednesday the 4th day of November A.D. 1953 at the hour of two o'clock in the afternoon at the Court House in Summerside the following:

- 1 Dodge Sedan 1939.
- 1 Mercury Sedan 1940.
- 4 Firestone Tires 600 x 16.
- 2 Jack Stands.
- 1 Model K. A. C. Spark plug cleaner.
- 1 Alemite Hi-Pressure grease gun (100 lbs)
- 1 Henry No. 50 Bench Vice.
- And a few other articles.

J. Hubert Hall,
High Sheriff of Prince County.

NOTICE

I will not be responsible for any debts heretofore contracted by my wife, Mary Elizabeth Myers, or by anyone else in my name without my express consent and authorization.

Dated this 29th day of October, A. D. 1953.

(Sgd.)
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