MINISTERS

OF THE

DURHAM PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

West River, Pictou County, Nova Scotia

1801 - 1998

by J. Stanley Graham



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Foreword

My whole life has been tied up with, and influenced by, Stanley Graham and his family. As a child, living "just across the road" from the Graham family, we were daily in touch with this kindly and godly family. Stanley Graham was my first Sunday School teacher, while his father was leading the singing and the Adult Bible Study in Rogers Hill schoolhouse on Sunday afternoons. I recited my first Bible memory verses and the shorter catechism to Stanley Graham.

The memory of the Grahams at their "Family Altar" every morning—no matter what season of the year or how much work had to be done—the reading from the Scriptures, then all the family kneeling around the breakfast table by their chairs, in prayer for God's forgiveness, grace and guidance, remained as a guide for my life in later years.

When I married, and my wife and I were accepted for missionary service in West Africa, the Graham family never missed a month of their financial support, and Stanley's letters assured us of their love, concern and prayers. We were able to stand and serve because we knew the Grahams—and others like them—were on their knees interceding for us.

Stanley Graham's father, Albert Graham, built the lovely home under the maple trees in Rockfield in 1907 for his new wife, Mary. Here Stanley Graham, his brother Calvin and sister Katherine, grew up. They attended school, Stanley to Grade 11, at Rogers Hill. Katherine attended High School, then Normal School and became a teacher, but lack of cash and the farm work kept Calvin and Stanley at home.

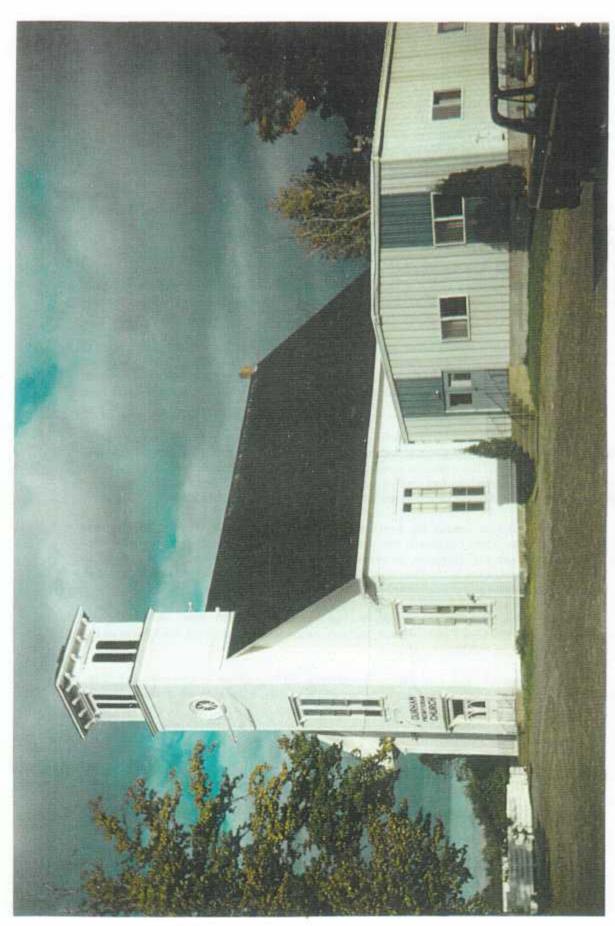
Stanley committed his heart to Christ at an early age. In his late teens he began to teach a Sunday School class, first at Rogers Hill and later at Durham. He taught Sunday School regularly for over 50 years. One of his treasured possessions is a Bible presented to him as a gift in June of 1981, signed by 59 children who had been in his Sunday School classes. Few of us have touched as many lives with the sweetness of Christ as has Stanley Graham over the past 70 years!

The work of God around the world and his home church were his life. Stanley was Superintendant of the Sunday School at Durham Presbyterian Church for 29 years, from 1952 to 1981. He was an Elder and Treasurer for years, and Clerk of Session for 13 years, from 1978 to 1991. He was a Life Member of the Canadian Bible Society, and of the Clan MacLeod Society, and received the Clans Person of the Year award in 1992.

He has written a family history of the Grahams, a history of the Rockfield community, and was co-author of the MacLeod Family History, and now, at age 88, has completed this booklet on the Ministers of the Durham Presbyterian Church.

We commend it to you, as a part of the valuable heritage of our community, and of the history of the men of God who guided our ancestors and ourselves, to the present, in the knowledge of Christ as Saviour, and in the ways of Truth and Righteousness.

Rev. W. Allan MacLeod Rockfield, N.S. August, 1998



The Durham Church with the changed front entrance and the new church hall, opened May 7, 1972.

Introduction

What prompted the writing of these historical notes, you ask! Perhaps it can best be answered by saying that it was as a result of my own thoughts. So many times we looked back and asked ourselves questions, perhaps about a certain clergyman we had; What years was he here? Where had he come from? Then concerning certain events: What year was the church burned? How soon was it rebuilt? When was the church hall built? The new manse? And so many other events of interest.

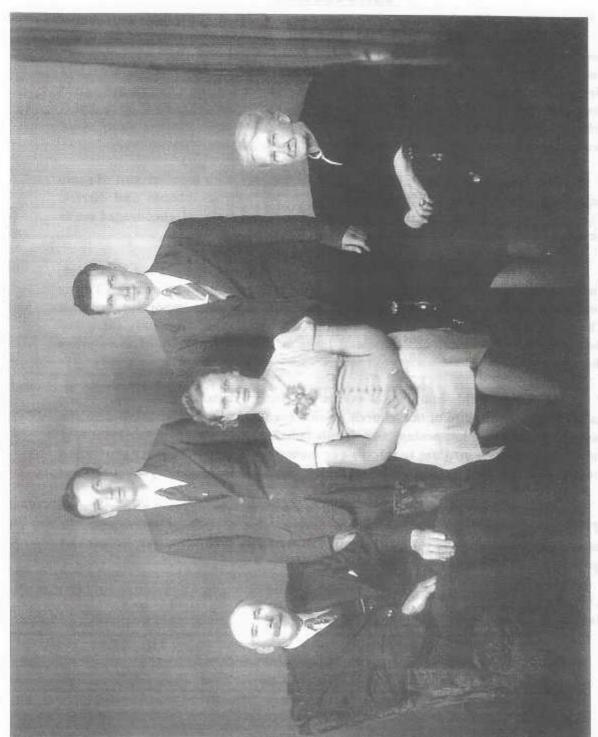
The seed was planted! I began to make notes of each minister and of some important events. Many items had answers in my own scrapbooks and diaries. Then the church Session, hearing about my collection of material, encouraged me to have it printed in book or booklet form.

The reason I concentrated on Durham was simply that I did not have data, knowledge or records relating to the other churches of our pastoral charge. This is not to suggest that the ties with Salem and Saltsprings are less important, for each Church is a valuable and strong arm of our very existence. Hopefully some day someone will take up the challenge and leave us a history of each of these other churches.

I am hoping this summary of events will bring to remembrance many of the happy events in the life of our church. Some events may seem trivial, but as the years pass and some happenings and details fade from our memory, this book may hopefully serve as a medium to refresh our memories. For the younger generation much of it will be history, but its importance to them will grow as the years pass.

Any errors or omissions with regard to events in certain years or periods, or of Memorials and gifts and dedications may be due to lack of information or circumstances, but was in no way intentional. For any such errors or omissions I apologize, and take full responsibility.

J.Stanley Graham Rockfield, 1998



Albert E., Stanley, Katherine, Calvin and Mary Graham

Acknowledgements

First of all, I want to express my grateful appreciation to Allan MacLeod, of Langley, B.C., who so graciously offered to take this material in hand, type it up on his computer, and prepare it for printing.

Then my thanks to the Durham Session members who encouraged the vision to go bigger than my original thinking, and to have it printed in booklet form as a safer way to preserve it for future readers.

Thank you, Mrs. Grace Parker, for reading my script and checking for necessary corrections, and for encouraging me in the task.

My thanks and appreciation to Mrs. Shirley McCormick of Middleton, N.S. who kept sending me from time to time many items gleaned by her from the old "Presbyterian Record" papers.

Also to John, Edith and Margaret Fraser for their time spent tabulating the many Memorial Gifts given to Durham Church.

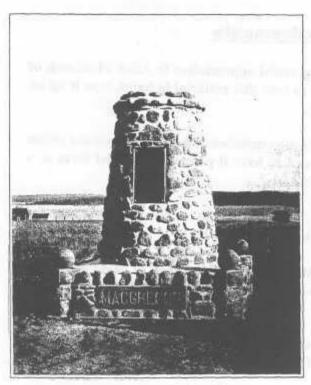
Certainly not least my appreciation to David Lavers for his interest in the old historical things, who also acted as liaison between the writer and the Session, and who spurred me on at times when I felt like giving up on the project.

Finally, my thanks to Almighty God, who, over the years, used the Durham Church and its ministers to be a spiritual light to the community, an encouragement to the pioneers, our forefathers, in difficult days, a guide to those who sought wisdom, a source of inspiration for our missionary effort around the world, and to the church itself for being a place of fellowship, prayer, laughter, joy and spiritual enrichment for almost 200 years!

As I lay my pen down, my prayer is that Durham Church and its ministers may continue to be a spiritual inspiration and guide to the young and the old of the generations yet to come, just as they have been to us!

In His love and mine,

J. Stanley Graham Rockfield, Pictou County, N.S. July 10, 1998



The MacGregor Cairn, Pictou

THE MACGREGOR CAIRN

Out of the mists of Scotia's ancient day, With blood of kingly Alpin in his veins; And from the sphere of distant Gregor's sway, With soul aflame to conquer new domains

He came, God sent, to this rude land; and here, As Moses to the plain of old once came, Or John the Baptist to the desert drear, He brought the Law, and lit the Gospel flame.

The plain was nourished, and the desert bloomed; The threatening clouds of darkness sped away; The sinking souls which had to death been doomed Revived; and into night came glarious day.

Stand here, mute cairn, and sanctify the sad, Where stood at first, this shining Knight of God.

Rev. Frank Baird

Rev. James Drummond MacGregor

The beginning of the Presbyterian Church in the Pictou district of Nova Scotia dates back to the coming of Rev. James MacGregor.

In the 1700's settlers were coming from Scotland by boat. Especially named are the "Betsey" in 1767, coming by way of Philadelphia, followed by the "Hector" in 1773. A number of immigrants from Dumfries, Scotland, settled here in 1783, after first going to Prince Edward Island, where they had serious hardships. The farmers were plagued by mice -- even seed they put in the ground was eaten by the mice!

In the spring of 1783 they decided to come to Pictou, on the mainland. Seven families settled along the West River, near what was later named Durham. Among these settlers were Anthony MacLellan, William Clark, David Stewart, William Smith, John McLean and Charles Blaikie.

As the settlers increased, they were desirous of having an ordained minister among them. The nearest pastor was at Truro, forty miles away, where they sometimes took their children to be baptized by the Rev. Daniel Cock, or Rev. Smith. So, after serious consideration and discussion, a long document was prepared, (too long to copy here), dated November 8, 1784, and signed by the following: Robert Patterson, John Patterson, Robert Marshall, William Smith, and Donald MacKay.

This document was dispatched to Scotland, and studied and debated by the General Associate Synod of Scotland, also known as Anti-burger. James MacGregor, still in university, was, after consideration and following his graduation, ordained and dispatched for service in Pictou County.

Nearly two years after the document had arrived from Pictou, Rev. MacGregor set sail in the brig *Lily* on June 4, and arrived in Halifax on July 11, 1786. He proceeded by horseback to Pictou. At that time there were no real roads, only blazed trails for horse or foot travel.

He arrived at West River and was welcomed to the home of Mr. George MacConnell at the Ten Mile House. As they had no room for overnight accommodation, Mr. MacConnell arranged with a neighbour, Mr. William Smith, to put him up for the night. The next day he was taken to Pictou by land and canoe, finally arriving at Squire Patterson's home. Mr. Patterson lived near what is now known as the LO.O.F. Home.

Rev. MacGregor immediately began preparing for a Sunday service in Squire Patterson's barn. In spreading news of the service, he lost no time preparing to fulfil his call to service! His first years were spent more as a travelling missionary: visiting homes, baptizing children, holding Sunday services and encouraging the settlers in their spiritual lives.

Seeing the need for a center of worship, two log churches were built in 1787 one in the eastern part of the County, and the other at Loch Broom. They were very
primitive, as were the homes of the settlers: built of hewn logs and the seating
provided by split logs, raised up from the floor by posts. This served for a number
of years, but the buildings could only be used during the summer, since they had no
heat. Therefore in the winter months services had to be held in settlers homes.

Several years later, in 1795, Rev. Duncan Ross and Rev. John Brown arrived from Scotland to assist Rev. MacGregor. Rev. Brown settled in Londonderry.

Upon the arrival of these two men, they, along with Rev. MacGregor and some elders, held a meeting in Robert Marshall's barn at Green Hill. This was considered to be a fairly central point, and a Presbytery was organized. At this meeting discussion also began regarding the dividing up of the territory, but this did not become a reality until 1801. Then the responsibility was divided up into three fields: East River (New Glasgow), West River, and the Harbor (Pictou). Rev. Ross was called and inducted into the West River charge in 1801.

Rev. MacGregor and Rev. Ross took turns in ministering to the Harbor (Pictou) district until the coming of the Rev. Thomas McCulloch in 1803.

In 1813 the first framed church was built at West River, at about the site of the school house, now the Community Hall near the Durham Cemetery. Rev. Duncan Ross had the distinction to be the first to minister in the new building.

Since there are so many histories written on the life and ministry of Rev. MacGregor, and as it is our intention to focus on the history and life of the West River congregation, therefore I'll just give a brief summary of Rev. MacGregor's final years.

It was not until about 1822 that the University of Glasgow, Scotland, finally honored him with a degree. It stated, "In recognition of his magnificent service as missionary and poet, the Degree of Doctor of Divinity was conferred on him."

Dr. MacGregor died March 3, 1830, at the age of 71 years. He was buried near the East River, the vicinity where he had labored for many years. A cairn was erected by the Synod of the Maritime provinces and dedicated on July 23, 1936, marking one hundred and fifty years since the arrival of Dr. MacGregor to Pictou County.

The cairn was erected near the spot where he preached his first sermon, on land generously leased by the board of the I.O.O.F. Home.

Complete coverage of the event, sermons, tributes, and dedication of the cairn are fully covered in the book, "MacGregor Celebration Addresses", by Dr. Frank Baird.

Rev. Duncan Ross 1801 - 1834

Duncan Ross was born in Tarbert, Ross-shire, Scotland, in 1770. He began to study for the ministry, taking the courses required for the Anti-burger branch of the Presbyterian Church. He and a fellow student, John Brown, were burdened by the need of preachers in Pictou, and together they set their hearts toward helping fulfil that need. Having completed their studies, they were ordained on January 20, 1795, and later that year set sail for Pictou and the new land.

During his ministry in Pictou County, Rev. Ross established a number of firsts. As we already mentioned, during that first year the Presbytery was organized, after co-working with Rev. MacGregor. Later, Rev. John Brown settled in Londonderry for a few years. In 1801 the Presbytery had divided the territory into three fields: The East River (New Glasgow), West River, and the Harbor (Pictou). The West River field went to Rev. Duncan Ross. He was called and inducted into that charge in that same year, 1801. His field covered a very large area, from Green Hill to Mount Dalhousie and Rogers Hill, which for a time included Scotsburn district and the surrounding areas.

Rev. Ross, like Rev. MacGregor, travelled to other points that had no minister. He preached quite a number of times in Stewiacke, where he met a young lady who would soon share his life and labors. In 1796 he married Miss Isabell Creelman, eldest daughter of Samuel and Mary (Campbell) Creelman of Upper Stewiacke, Colchester County. They had a family of nine sons and six daughters. Some of his sons and grandsons studied for and supported the Christian ministry.

Several of the family married and settled in the vicinity. One daughter, Mary, married John Millar of Rogers Hill. Their grand-daughters, Miss Annie Millar and Mrs. Homer (Elizabeth) Millar, were well known in our generation.

Magdalene, another daughter, was the grand-mother of the W. P. Creighton family. A son was the father of Mrs. Robert MacKay of Loch Broom, also James, another son, would play an important role in the West River Church.

About 1835, Rev. Duncan Ross received a large grant of forest land. Later he purchased the former Maxwell place, now owned by the Cock family. Here he did some farming to supplement the income needed for his large, growing family. He built a grist mill while there, which would be helpful in preparing grains for flour and oatmeal.

Rev. Ross was very interested in education, especially the branches that supported training that led to Christian ministry. He was very supportive of Rev.

Thomas MacCulloch and his efforts to train young men for the ministry. Rev. Ross was a trustee of Pictou Academy from its beginning in 1816 until the time of his death, and he gave liberally to it's support.

There were a number of firsts during his ministry. He was the first, of course, to minister in the new church at Durham, built in 1813, which would have been quite a contrast from the log church.

Dr. Ross was very progressive in improving society, and the living conditions of his people. The first Bible Society in the County was organized on April 16, 1813, with his encouragement and support. Records state that he also began prayer meetings in every community, possibly the first such in the area.

He evidently began Sabbath Schools as well in the communities of the charge. The following is of interest, from the *Presbyterian Record* of December, 1890:

"Mr. Anthony MacLeod, West River, Pictou, says that Rev. Duncan Ross had a Sabbath School in his congregation seventy years ago, and that he, Mr. MacLeod, attended both the Sabbath School and the Bible Class when he was ten or eleven years old. This is reported as the oldest Sabbath school."

He was active in the organizing of the first Agricultural Society in a rural district of the Province of Nova Scotia. It was organized January 1st, 1817, at West River, and Rev. Ross acted as the first president of the society.

He was also instrumental in the organizing of the first Temperance Society in October, 1827, in the West River Presbyterian Church.

Rev. Duncan Ross died from cancer, after a short illness, on October 25, 1834, in his 65th year. He was buried in Durham Cemetery, not far from the site of the old West River church. The congregation erected a table monument with a suitably inscribed tribute. The words are still legible. His wife, the former Isabell Creelman of Upper Stewiacke, died May, 1845, aged 68 years, and was buried beside her husband.

Incidentally, the Durham Cemetery has the distinction of being the oldest cemetery in Pictou County, the first burial being a Mrs. Gerrard in 1784.



Rev. Duncan Ross-a drawing.

Rev. James Ross, D.D. 1835 - 1851

James Ross was born July 28, 1811, at West River, Pictou County, son of Rev. Duncan Ross and Isabell Creelman.

He studied at Pictou Academy under Dr. Thomas MacCulloch and received his teaching licence in 1831. While taking theological studies he taught in the High School in Sackville, New Brunswick." (From a note in the *Maritime Presbyterian*, 1886, in a tribute at the time of his death.) While in Scotland completing the last two years of his Theology requirements, he was chosen by the congregation to succeed his father, Rev. Duncan Ross, who had passed away in 1834. He was ordained and inducted into the West River pastoral charge on November 3, 1835.

At this time he still had a wide-spread ministry from Green Hill to Mount Dalhousie. On September 27, 1838 he married Isabel Matheson, daughter of William Matheson, a progressive businessman of West River. They lived on the farm of his late father, now (1998) the Cock farm in Durham. Here he built a large house, pictured in L. B. Jensen's "Country Roads", the date given there, 1835.

Historian's notes tell us that he taught students Theological subjects, even boarded some students in his home, before the opening of the Seminary.

Like his father, he was very interested in, and concerned with, the cause of higher education. He supported strongly Dr. MacCulloch and sons, but at this time Pictou Academy was having serious difficulties with the government and with opposing church groups. This, together with his concern in regard to the scarcity of ministers, led to plans for the opening of a Seminary at West River.

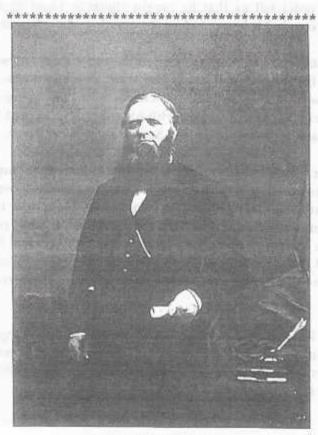
Rev. James Ross was the leading figure, strongly supported by the MacCullochs, in the opening of the Seminary. The first sessions began November 7, 1848. The Seminary held lectures in the Temperance Hall, over the school house, with twelve students enrolled. The first five graduates who received all their training here were: James MacGregor MacKay, James Thomson, Henry Crawford, John M. MacLeod and James MacLean. (Source: McPhee's "Pictonians at Home and Abroad") James Thomson was one who would later play a role in our church history.

It was also in 1848 that the Green Hill section of the charge began to make plans to form a church of their own. They felt enough support would be available in their district to supply the needs of their own minister. A petition was circulated for signatures and then presented to Presbytery. Their request was granted. A church building was erected, and dedicated on May 20, 1849, as Salem Presbyterian Church. Rev. George Patterson, a grandson of the pioneer, Rev. James MacGregor, was called as the first minister and inducted on October 31st of that year. This served to lighten somewhat the burden of Rev. Ross.

About this time two new teaching subjects were added to his work load at the Seminary. All this, in addition to his church ministry, was proving to be too much of a strain on his health. He asked to be relieved of his church ministries, and resigned on July 28, 1851. This gave him more time for his Seminary work.

Rev. James Watson was called to the charge and inducted on June 15, 1852. We will cover his ministry later; suffice it to say, following a split in the church, Rev. James Ross supported the break-away group for two years, as their minister.

Rev. Ross followed with interest the work of the Seminary for the rest of his active years. After continuing in West River for ten years, the Seminary moved to Truro, where it carried on its studies for several years before moving to Halifax. Rev. Ross acted as Principal and lectured for 22 years. He resigned from his duties May 1st, 1885, and returned to his home in Dartmouth where he died in 1886. He is buried in Camp Hill Cemetery, Halifax.



Rev. James Ross, D.D.

Rev. James Watson 1852 - 1857

James Watson was born in Glasgow, Scotland, on February 23, 1803. He was educated in Scotland, and set sail for Pictou in 1843, in response to a relief appeal. He taught school for a few years in Musquodoboit, then accepted a call to the congregation of Economy and Five Islands, where he ministered from December, 1846 until 1851.

He received a call from the West River church to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Rev. Ross, and was inducted into that charge on June 15, 1852.

About four years into the ministry of Rev. Watson a disruption took place, when Rev. James Ross apparently took issue with some of the preaching of Rev. Watson. Although the Presbytery and Synod investigated and exonerated Rev. Watson, the congregation was so badly split over the issue that 92 communicant members and 35 others left the church and organized a new congregation on July 22, 1856. This group was nick-named, "The Bolters."

In time, a new church was built on the opposite side of the river on the site of the present church building, which was then called the Central Church. Rev. James Ross, who had supported this group, was to minister to them for the next two years.

The old church group was sadly weakened, but evidently those who remained appreciated Rev. Watson's ministry. We read in the *Missionary Register* of January, 1856, that "On Thursday, December 6, the ladies of elder Adamson's district presented their pastor with a beautiful seal skin fur coat as a token of their esteem for him, and of gratitude for his labors among them, particularly in the Bible Class. It was accompanied with a complimentary address."

Rev. Watson resigned from the old West River Church charge on July 7, 1857, and was called to the New Annan Church. He ministered there until his death on December 12, 1881, following a severe stroke at the age of 79 years.



Rev. James Thomson 1858 - 1879

James Thomson was born in 1816, a native of Nine Mile River, Hants County, Nova Scotia.

He was one of the first graduates of the 1848 class enrolled in the then newly organized Seminary at Durham, West River.

Evidently James Thomson had ministered to a congregation before coming to West River, for we read the following from the *Missionary Register* of February, 1854. "At the last meeting of Presbytery, Mr. James Thomson accepted a call to the congregation of Economy and Five Islands, and preparatory steps were taken for his ordination over that charge at an early date."

This would be the congregation that Rev. Watson had resigned from in 1851, and possibly it was James Thomson's first charge following his studies at the Seminary.

Then from the *Missionary Register*, June 2, 1858. "The Pictou Presbytery: a call to Rev. James Thomson was sustained and June 15 set for Presbytery to meet to induct (him) as minister of the Central Church."

He was the first minister to be called to the new Central Church following its organization under the two years of ministry of Rev. James Ross. Rev. James Thomson married Miss Helen Dickie of Maitland, N.S.

At approximately the same time, Rev. George Roddick was called to minister to the old West River Church following the resignation of Rev. James Watson in 1857. Here the two men, Rev. Thomson and Rev. Roddick, labored side by side for twenty-one years.

During the ministry of Rev. Thomson, the church building burned to the ground. To quote from the personal diary of Mr. James Barry of Six Mile Brook, "Monday, February 27, 1871. The Bolters church was burned to the ground last Saturday morning."

The church was rebuilt on the same site, and dedicated in February, 1872. During the building of the church, services were held in Mr. James MacDonald's barn, and by the winter they were able to hold the services in the new church.

During the ministry of these two men, it was becoming apparent that supporting two churches was proving difficult. The people then began considering the possibility of uniting the two congregations. From the *Presbyterian Record* of August, 1879, we read, "Pictou Presbytery meeting: A committee was appointed to complete arrangements for the uniting of the Central Church and the West River congregation, and a suitable minute was adopted in reference to the resignation of Rev. James Thomson, which has been tendered in order to facilitate the amalgamation."

From the *Presbyterian Record*, November, 1879, the following: "A meeting of Presbytery: The congregations of West River and Central Church according to their own request, united, and are to be known as the United Congregation, West River. Rev. W. Donald was appointed Interim Moderator of Session."

Rev. Roddick also resigned January 2, 1879, in order to promote the unity of the two churches.

Evidently, Rev. Thomson must have retired at the time of his resignation from Central Church. On April 4, 1879, he bought the farm and buildings from Andrew and Helen Sutherland for \$800., also another piece of property from the same folks. This house, known as Rose Cottage, was the home of the Thomsons, and their sons and daughters, during all their lifetime, until sold in 1954 to Stewart MacKay. It has since changed owners again.

The older Rev. James Thomson evidently lived to a ripe old age. The *Presbyterian Witness* of May 18, 1907, comments on the Rev. James Thomson reaching the age of 91 years, and that during his ministry at Central Church seventeen young men had studied for the ministry.

A son, Dr. MacCulloch Thomson, the last surviving member of the family, also lived to a good age. He died in 1957 in his 95th year. His funeral was held on February 21, 1957.

Rev. George Roddick 1858 - 1879

George Roddick was born at sea January 21, 1831, when his parents were enroute to Canada from Dumfriesshire, Scotland. They settled at Cariboo, Pictou County, Nova Scotia.

Following his school education he studied for the ministry at the West River Seminary. Rev. Watson had resigned the year previous to George Roddick's graduation, thus providing an opening for him. He was called to minister to the West River Church, ordained, and inducted May 11th, 1858. He remained there for twenty-one years.

He was there during the period when plans were being formulated for the union of the two churches. He too, like Rev. Thomson, resigned on January 2, 1879, to facilitate amalgamation of the two churches. Rev. Thomson resigned November, 1879.

About this time the Canadian West was being opened up and settled, and appeals were going out for immigrants. As the Roddicks had four sons, they saw opportunities for their family. He gathered a group of ten young men from the county to go with him and his family. These were: Henry Dunbar of Hopewell, Simon McKay of New Glasgow, Hugh McPherson of Watervale, Hugh Rice of Stellarton, and Gordon Halliday, Anderson McCabe, John Crawford, and Charles, John and Watson Stewart of Pictou.

On April 9th, 1897, they began their journey by train via Montreal, Chicago, and Minneapolis, arriving at St. Boniface on April 17th. The unpaved streets were a sea of Red River mud. They purchased five teams of oxen, one team of horses, and several wagons for their belongings. These included farm implements, tools and household goods, the Roddick family organ—and a church bell from Durham.

On April 21st they set out toward the west. Arriving near present day Brandon, they realized they were lost. An Indian they met told them of good land, wood and water just across the Assiniboine River, toward the Blue Hills to the south. The decision was made to investigate, and the land looked good.

Some decided to stay on the north side of the river. Rev. Roddick and most of the party opted to cross over. They caulked a wagon box with mud, and floated their belongings across, then settled about 10 miles south-east of present day Brandon. To mark out their quarter sections of land they measured the distances from the correction line by counting the turns of a wagon wheel. Over the next couple of years, other settlers arrived, and stayed. The Brandon Hills community was begun!

Church services were begun immediately in homes by Rev. Roddick. The Roddick home was the local Post Office for a time as well. By the summer of 1881 the railroad from Winnipeg reached the area. The C. P. Railway bought property for a station, and the town of Brandon grew up around it. The settlement of the district was well begun, and the Brandon Hills community, with school and church, to the south, was the center of a thriving community.

One hundred years later the Brandon Hills church and district celebrated the event, the coming of Rev. Roddick and his group, and the founding of Brandon Hills. Our church in Durham was asked to support this event. We will use the letters received in January, 1979. The Durham church received the following letter from Brandon Hills:

"I have taken the liberty to write this note to ask you if the Durham Presbyterian Church is still being used? The reason for this is: away back in 1879, a minister from Durham came west, and located a number of young men from there and surrounding districts. Rev. George Roddick was his name; he had preached in Durham for twenty-one years prior to his retirement.

Now, one hundred years later, the district is going to celebrate the coming of that party. This is to take place the 1st of July this year. We would like a picture of Durham church to display at this gathering, as George Roddick took the measurements out and built a church on his own farm, smaller, but exactly the same plan as the church back there. He also gave the land for the cemetery.

One of his sons gave land for a school and barn that would accommodate the horses for both school and church, the school and church being across the road from each other.

I would gladly pay for a picture, if possible to procure one.

I am the eldest daughter of the eldest daughter of this said minister, and my father was a son of William Dunbar of Hopewell, Nova Scotia.

Signed; Mrs. Bessie Chapman"

The Durham Session prepared a package for them containing: a picture of the Durham church, a picture of the Session group, a plate with the church picture on it, and some notes from church records and old news clippings.

In March, 1979, the Session received the following "Thank you" reply.

"I was so pleased to receive your nice letter and pictures and write-up of Grandpa, Rev. George Roddick. I will have the information printed and on display with the picture of the Session at the Banquet Home Coming.....

My father, William Henry Dunbar, was a son of Robert Dunbar of Hopewell, N.S. He was one of the boys that my grandfather took out West in the spring of 1879 to locate. They were 21 young men plus grandfather, grandmother, and three daughters and four sons all told in the party."

By using these letters, we get a good summary of this migration. We have to state that the church Rev. George Roddick ministered to was the <u>first</u> old West River church. In comparing pictures of the church in Manitoba with the home church in Nova Scotia we would have to conclude that our present church at Durham follows the same plans as the former West River church on the same site.

After retiring from the active ministry in Brandon Hills, Rev. George Roddick returned to Nova Scotia and settled in his home town of Pictou. He attended First Presbyterian church and was an active elder. His eldest daughter and her husband, hearing that he was in poor health, came to visit him.

Rev. George Roddick passed away in Pictou on February 22nd, 1910. His remains were taken back to Brandon, Manitoba, and were buried beside his wife Elizabeth in the Brandon Hills Cemetery he had marked out years earlier.

An interesting postscript to the above story took place the summer of 1997. Allan MacLeod, who grew up in the Durham Church, was travelling to Nova Scotia from Vancouver, B.C., with his wife Meryle and their grand-daughter, Crystal. They stopped in Brandon on a lovely Sunday evening, and were shown the Brandon Hills Church, the cemetery where Rev. George Roddick and others of the party are buried, and the school, by Wilbert and Ann Chapman, who were members of the church for years, and on the Centennial Committee which produced the book "The Brandon Hills Story."

Allan's grand-daughter Crystal had the pleasure of ringing the church bell in the tower--the bell that came from Durham so many years ago! The Chapmans asked them to pass on greetings from the Brandon Hills church to the Durham congregation, which they did on July 13th. Thank you, Wilbert and Ann Chapman!



The Reverend George Roddick.



Elizabeth, wife of Reverend Roddick.



Log house of Reverend George Roddick, built July 1879.

Rev. A. W. MacLeod 1881 - 1885

Rev. A. W. MacLeod was the first minister called to minister to the new United Congregation, West River, following the union of the Old West River and Central Church. He was inducted September 26, 1881.

During the ministry of Rev. MacLeod the old West River church was destroyed by fire on January 22nd, 1883.

In the *Presbyterian Witness*, dated January 27, 1883, we find: "The old Presbyterian church, West River, was destroyed by fire Monday morning, the school house on the other side of the road shared the same fate. No insurance! This is a serious warning to all our congregations to have their buildings insured. We believe there is a newer church in the vicinity which will accommodate the congregation, so that no very great inconvenience will be suffered."

The union effected in 1879 was not favorably received by some members: according to history notes, a group still continued to hold services in the Old West River Church until the mysterious fire destroyed the building. This of necessity bonded the two churches together.

We have no record of the year he resigned, possibly some time in 1885, for a new minister was installed the first of 1886.

Rev. John Franklin Forbes 1886 - 1894

It was just before this period that consideration was again being given to unite the West River and Green Hill (Salem) congregations. In 1885 a petition was presented to Presbytery to unite the congregations of West River and Green Hill.

From the Presbyterian Record of August, 1885, we read;
"Pictou Presbytery met in New Glasgow 28th inst. It was agreed....to unite
Green Hill and that part of the United Congregation, West River, located
at West River and in the vicinity, the union to take place immediately."

Rev. A. W. MacLeod had resigned, so that Presbytery had the difficult task of searching for a pastor with the wisdom, tact and ability to fit into the situation here—the two churches at West River having just been blended together, and now with Green Hill added.

Before long their sights were set on a minister who was doing wonderful work in Lochaber and Union Centre, uniting preaching points there. A call was prepared and sent by Presbytery to Rev. J. F. Forbes.

John Franklin Forbes was born February 2, 1834, son of John Forbes and Jessie Gunn who had emigrated from Scotland in 1830 with several young children. They landed at Pictou, spent part of a year there, then acquired a grant of land in Blue Mountain. It was here that John Franklin Forbes was born.

Finding conditions there not productive, John Forbes accepted a grant of land and moved to Goshen, Guysborough County. Here young John Franklin received his schooling, then went to Teachers College, after which he taught school at Sherbrooke and Economy, N.S. He decided to study medicine, but God had other plans.

During a visit to his brother Adam in Shediac and Buctouche, N.B., he found that God was working in a rather remarkable way in the New Mills area. Adam and John Franklin visited the place, and were touched also by the evident moving of the Spirit of God, for as John himself wrote, "I there and then gave myself to the Lord and resolved to study for the ministry."

He took courses in several colleges, including sitting under the ministry of C. W. Hodge, graduated in 1865 from the College of Princeton, and was ordained.

Following his ordination he was called to minister in Union Centre and Lochaber, where he ministered with distinction, the work prospered, and he was the means of reconciling differences. Real revival touched his flock, built up the group, and he became very much loved and respected. He was kind, wise, a man of vast energy, keen intellect and good humour. A generous Catholic who offered him a subscription, added smilingly, "if you are not afraid that Catholic money will burn your pocket." "On the contrary," John replied, "I am prepared to risk the other pocket with a similar amount."

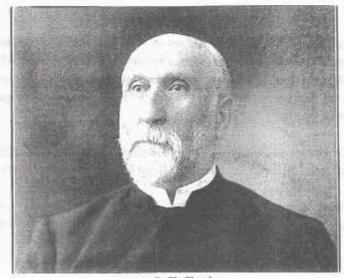
It was here in 1885 that the call was received from the West River and Green Hill congregations. Rev. Forbes accepted the call, and was inducted on January 13, 1886. During his ministry here the manse at Durham was built, now owned and occupied by John and Edith Fraser and family.

Apparently the union of the two Durham churches was agreed upon, but only on condition that the manse be built at Green Hill. Rev. Forbes, after giving careful consideration to the site, felt that Durham had more advantages. It was nearer to schools, academy, railways, towns, etc., also to these benefits had to be consideration for future ministers. Rather than accept the present plans, he offered to resolve the question by resigning. Green Hill, at this point, graciously gave consent to building at Durham, and the building of the new manse proceeded.

Rev. Forbes ministered at West River for eight years. In 1898 the Presbyterian Synod of the Maritime Provinces showed its appreciation of his unremitting labours by appointing him to the chair of Moderator. The Presbyterian Witness wrote of him as follows: "Rev. J. F. Forbes was a capital Moderator, fatherly, patient, genial, using his authority promptly and with discrimination when occasion required." The West River parish was enriched by his presence.

He received a call from Sydney, Cape Breton, and after consideration resigned his charge, moved to Cape Breton, and was installed in the Sydney charge on February 14, 1894. He died suddenly, following a brief illness, on January 4, 1905, from blood

poisoning.



Rev. J. F. Forbes

Rev. James R. Coffin 1895 - 1907

To this point, we have not found any reference as to the birthplace or parentage of Rev. James R. Coffin. He was presented a call from West River and Salem Presbyterian church which he accepted, and was inducted May 30, 1895, as pastor of the charge, where he labored for twelve years until his resignation in 1907.

A few interesting events took place during those years. First, at the annual church meeting held February 1st, 1897, the building of horse sheds was discussed, possibly the beginning of the sheds across the highway, buildings which were still being used in my day and generation.

Another item of interest. Mr. William MacDonald apparently was precentor, that is, leader of the singing. He was intimidated as his voice was growing weaker, and he felt he needed some support. This led to a meeting being held September 6, 1897. Intensive dicussion took place regarding the purchase of an organ, which resulted in a committee being appointed to look into the project. In 1899 the committee reported back, stating that they had raised \$132.00 and had purchased an organ.

Then about 1901 interesting reports began to appear of the events of the annual Sabbath School Conventions. At that time every community had their Sabbath School; Durham, Lyons Brook, Rogers Hill Centre, Rogers Hill Cross Roads, Millsville, Saltsprings, etc. Each section took turns hosting the Convention, which consisted of two sessions, afternoon and evening. Reports were given of each school; helpful demonstrations were presented on teaching classes, special speakers gave reports on missionary work or projects the schools were involved in, all which must have been very interesting.

I remember well my parents going to Salt Springs, Lyons Brook and other places. They travelled by horse and buggy, which in those days would necessitate staying for the second meeting in the evening, but all were graciously invited by the hosting folks to come for supper. These conventions must have been helpful and informative, for no one wanted to miss them. According to our earlier notes on Rev. Duncan Ross, these Sabbath Schools were probably begun during Rev. Duncan Ross's time of ministry.

During Rev. Coffin's ministry, a missionary was sent out from the congregation. From the *Presbyterian Witness* of September 6, 1902, we read:

> "A farewell meeting was held in the church at Durham, Friday evening, the 29th ult., in view of the early departure of Rev. D. G. and Mrs. Cock as missionaries to India. The exercises were of more than usual interest.

West River is Cock's old home, and where his parents still reside. The large congregation that met to bid him Godspeed, marked the high estimation in which he and Mrs. Cock are held, and the deep interest of the people in his chosen life-work.

Dr. Coffin of Springfield, Mass. began the devotional part of the service, and Rev. James Thomson, the venerable father of our missionary to Trinidad, led in prayer. Rev. J. G. Forbes, the late minister of the congregation who was visiting here, presided with all his old-time tact and ability. Addresses were given by Rev. A. H. Denoon, of Saltsprings, Rev. Thomas Cummings of Scotsburn and by the departing missionary. An address was also presented to Mrs. Cock by the missionary band, and read by Miss May Hamblin, associated with Miss Maggie Clark. The choir provided suitable music, and were assisted by Mr. Park of Everett, Massachusetts.

The church was handsomely decorated by Miss Eliza Thomson, president of the Mission Band, whose taste and labor added much to the pleasure of the congregation. The collection amounted to about \$20.00. The benediction ended one of the most successful meetings ever held here, and the prayers and good wishes of all go out with Mr. and Mrs. Cock in their journey to Indore, and for the success of the work they enter upon there."

The only other congregational item is the following:

"At a February 2, 1905 meeting a resolution was passed that the congregation stand at time of singing."

Evidently Rev. Coffin resigned from the charge here in 1907, for from the *Presbyterian Record* of March 2, 1907, we read:

"Rev. J. R. Coffin has reached his new field at North Portal, Saskatchewan, and has entered upon his work. Before leaving Nova Scotia, the young people of Durham section of Mr. Coffin's congregation assembled at the manse and presented their pastor with a silver mounted cane. They also presented Miss Ida a gold watch chain and to Miss Eva a gold locket and chain, each of which were suitably engraved.

A few days afterwards, a large representation waited upon Mr. Coffin at the manse and presented him with an address, expressive of their high esteem for him as a Christian gentleman and minister of the Gospel, and their appreciation of his pulpit and pastoral services. The address was accompanied with a gift of \$164.00 in a purse with an

engraved clasp. Speeches by Rev. Denoon, G. I. Stewart, James Porter, and others, followed by music and social fellowship made up a most interesting evening. Mr. Coffin's departure for the West is regretted, not only by his congregation, in which he was deservedly popular, but by the Presbytery of which he was an honored and useful member."

REV.J.R.
M.J. COFFIN,
PRESENT PASTOR

Rev. James R. Coffin



The lovely Durham Presbyterian Church, and the "old" entrance.

Rev. C. J. Crowdis, M.A., D.D. 1907 - 1912

The Rev. Charles Jacob Crowdis, M.A., D.D., was born in North East Margaree, Cape Breton, on September 16, 1876, the son of Thomas Richard Crowdis and Sarah Hart Crowdis. He received his early education in the schools of Rossville and Frizzleton and later at Baddeck Academy.

In order to earn money to go to college, he taught school for some years in Big Interval and Middle River in Cape Breton, and in Loch Katrine, Antigonish County, N.S. In 1900 he entered Dalhousie University in Halifax, graduating with honors in philosophy in 1904. The following year he received his Master of Arts in the same subject. Two years later he graduated from Pine Hill Divinity Hall, Halifax, N.S.

We quote from the Pictou Presbytery meeting of May 7, 1907:

"Mr. Denoon presented a call from West River and Green Hill congregation in favor of Mr. C. J. Crowdis, M.A., and signed by 312 communicants and over 100 adherents; a guarantee of \$900. stipend with manse and four weeks vacation accompanied the call. Messrs. Stewart, Thomson, Brown and Holliday represented the congregation. They reported only one name before the meeting, that of the pastor elect. The young people were most enthusiastic. The call was sustained and presented to Mr. Crowdis and accepted by him.

Arrangements were made for the ordination and induction to take place in Durham Church at 2:00 o'clock on the 21st of May. (1907) Mr. Denoon was to preside, Mr. MacLean to preach, Dr. Cummings to address the Minister, and Mr. Rogers the people."

The only items available from records of his ministry are: In 1908 at the annual congregational meeting, a resolution adopting the use of the envelope system for collecting stipends for 1908 was carried.

At the Annual Church Meeting of 1908, a motion was before the meeting and passed that the "Book of Praise" be used.

On June 28, 1911, Rev. Crowdis was married to Jane Susanna Kennedy, daughter of Hugh Kennedy and Mary Jane (Cameron) Kennedy at Loch Katrine, N.S. by Rev. A. A. MacLeod, a classmate of the groom. They had three children, Jean, Donald and Helen.

After five years ministry here, Rev. Crowdis received a call from Grove Presbyterian Church, Halifax, in March of 1912, which he accepted and resigned from his West River congregation.

During his sojourn in Halifax, the terrible Halifax explosion occurred. Mrs. Crowdis and children were in the manse at the time. Mrs. Crowdis was seriously injured, but the children escaped unharmed. The manse was destroyed.

In July 1939, Rev. Crowdis went to Malpeque, Prince Edward Island for supply, and was called to minister there in 1940. He accepted, and remained in Malpeque until his retirement in 1947.

Pine Hill Divinity Hall honored Rev. Crowdis on April 12, 1956, with the degree of Doctor of Divinity.

Rev. Crowdis spent his retirement in Halifax, N.S., where he died February 21, 1963.

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Rev. A. H. Foster, B.D. 1913 - 1918

Mr. Foster was a native of Pictou Landing, according to MacPhee's history of "Pictonians at Home and Abroad."

Mr. Foster was inducted into the pastoral charge of West River and Green Hill on February 27, 1913, and remained five years in the charge until December 31, 1918.

My mental pictures are somewhat vague of the ministry of Rev. Foster and his wife, although he was the first pastor I do remember. I can picture him in the pulpit and Mrs. Foster and a son and daughter sitting in the usual minister's pew near the front, on the right hand side of the church. I believe the young folk would have been teen-agers.

My most vivid mental picture, especially of Mrs. Foster, was of a nice summer morning when the congregation was assembled for worship. Some one came to the door of the church, and announced, "Charlie Leithead's barn is on fire!" Naturally, men who were able to help quickly left the service. I don't remember what happened to the service--possibly it carried on as usual--but I do remember all those waiting for the men to return sitting outside on the grass after the service, for those were horse and buggy days.

I remember Mrs. Foster walking up from the manse with a big plate of frosted cake, which no doubt was a welcome treat, for young tummies were ready for something to eat, now that it was past the noon hour!

Rev. Foster also made the usual visits to the cottage prayer meeting groups.

He retired December 13, 1918. Evidently he at some point became a professor at Brandon College, Brandon, Manitoba, and he was still there in August, 1939. We have no dates or information on his death.

Which way?

An Irish lady, in her good, faithful wife's manner, had the following inscription put on her husband's tombstone:

"To follow you
I am content.

Just wish I knew
which way you went!"

Rev. James A. MacKenzie, B.A. 1919 - 1922

James MacKenzie was born July 27, 1852, in Green Hill and studied for the ministry. He married Elizabeth McRae, born January 11, 1864, a daughter of Rev. Donald McRae, D.D.

While minister of the Thorburn congregation his wife Elizabeth died a tragic death on October 7, 1905, by eating poisoned candy that had been sent out by a demented man. She left a family of four sons; McRae, Morell, Norman and Dundonald, and two daughters, Jean and Zilla. Rev. James MacKenzie later married Catherine Forbes, R.N., of Little Harbour.

Rev. James MacKenzie was called, and inducted March 6, 1919, as pastor of the West River and Salem church congregations.

A well loved and respected couple, they were faithful in their ministry. Together they attended the cottage prayer meeting each month at Rockfield, as it was the custom to visit each group in the congregation every month.

Mrs. MacKenzie organized a Mission Band at the Rogers Hill Centre school. The school teacher gave a Friday afternoon once a month for the Mission Band. The Mission Band was given support by a member of the Women's Missionary Society. They were faithful in attending special occasions such as the Sunday School Rally Day, a special occasion for the children.

They attended my grand-parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Y. Graham's, Golden Wedding Anniversary on June 24, 1921.

One item passed by Session April 22, 1921, was the following:

"The Session agreed to ask the congregation to bow their heads after the Benediction."

Rev. and Mrs. MacKenzie resigned and retired from the active ministry on December 31, 1922, and later gave their support to the United Church of Canada. They purchased a house in Alma, where they lived until his death October 7, 1939.

At a congregational meeting held before the calling of a new minister, the following item is recorded:

"On January 17, 1923, at a congregation meeting, a vote of thanks was given the Ladies Aid for the valuable service they had given since being organized."



Rev. James A. MacKenzie

Rev. John Donald MacLeod 1923 - 1925

John D. MacLeod was born in Baddeck, and was educated at Baddeck Academy, Dalhousic University, and Pine Hill Divinity Hall, graduating in 1923. He received his doctorate of divinity from Pine Hill in 1958.

He was called and inducted as minister of West River (Durham) and Salem pastoral charge on October 9, 1923. He served for a year and a half in Durham.

During his ministry the vote for church union was held. The voting began on January 26, 1925, and resulted in both West River and Salem voting to remain in the Presbyterian church.

Rev. J. D. MacLeod, a strong supporter of church union, resigned and declar- ed the pulpit vacant, April 12, 1925. He served in several congregations, among them Trenton, Truro, and Scotsburn.

He was first married to Annie Porter, who died in 1961. He later married Blanche Reid of Green Hill. When he retired they lived at Green Hill until his death in December, 1971. He is buried in Fairview Cemetery, Halifax.

Members of the Session at the time of his resignation were: George Carson, Andrew Graham, James Patterson, and Frank Smith for Durham, and E. F. Porter and James A. Reid of Salem, who all tendered their resignation at a Session meeting held May 16, 1925, and accepted effective June 1st, 1925.

Quincy A. MacDowell was appointed by Presbytery to care for the congregation during the summer of 1925. He was present at this meeting, and took up his duties immediately. He was never inducted.

An election for elders was held. Albert E. Graham, William H. Tilsley and Daniel Fraser were elected, and ordained September 25, 1925, to serve in the West River charge. At this same Session meeting Albert E. Graham was appointed to take care of the communion sets and prepare the table for communion service, which duty he carried out until his death in 1951.

In 1926, <u>Rev. Alexander Nimmo</u> from Ireland supplied the pulpit during a time of vacancy. During Rev. Nimmo's ministry here he married Ethel May McLean on June 15th, 1927, in Durham Presbyterian church. They later served the church in Ontario. Both are now deceased.

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Rev. James Corry 1927 - 1928

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Rev. James Corry was presented a call from our pastoral charge and was inducted October 12, 1927. He, his wife Mrs. Corry and two teen-aged sons, occupied the manse. Rev. Corry resigned a year later, in 1928, and returned to the United States.

At a congregational meeting on January 11th, 1928, the congregation tendered a vote of thanks to Mrs. Bessie Brown, organist, and Mr. H. E. Grice for faithful service.

Rev. Henry L. Jost 1929 - 1932

Rev. Henry L. Jost then supplied the pulpit at West River/Salem during this vacancy. At a Session meeting on July 3, 1930, Rev. Jost agreed to continue as stated supply indefinitely; another note reads "Stated supply for three years."

Rev. and Mrs. Jost had a son, Earl.

On September 21, 1932, the congregation held a social evening for the Josts, in appreciation of his services while here for about four years. He preached his farewell sermon on September 25, 1932.

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Rev. William Verwolf 1932 - 1937

Rev. William Verwolf and his wife, (nee Fannie Haveman of Montana and North Dakota, U.S.A.) were extended a call from the West River pastoral charge, and arrived in late summer or autumn of 1932. Due to a ruling from the General Assembly, ministers coming from outside Canada had to serve a period of time as stated supply, therefore he was not inducted formally until July 11th, 1933.

They ministered here for five years, from 1932-1937. They then moved to Summerside, P.E.I. in response to a call from the Presbyterian church of that town, and he spent a few years there before returning to the U.S.A.

A son, John Willis, their first born, was born July 16, 1933, while in Durham.

During his ministry here the church sanctuary was closed for a period of time, while the church was being extensively renovated. The balcony was closed off, and the ceiling of the church lowered somewhat. Douglas fir was used extensively for the finish. The pulpit was extended, walls papered and electric lighting installed. The church entrance was also ceiled with Douglas fir.

Special dedication services were held July 26, 1936. Quincy A. MacDowell of Sydney Mines was guest speaker in the morning, and Rev. Malcolm Campbell, Moderator of the General Assembly, was guest speaker for the evening, with a large attendance. The offering was \$249.90.

At this time the annual congregational meeting was held jointly with Salem church, meeting alternately. Due to lack of interest and poor attendance the joint meetings were disbanded.

During the early years of Rev. Verwolf's ministry the congregation suffered a great loss in the passing of Mr. Aubrey Clark on April 4th, 1934. He was a faithful and devoted member and worker. At the time, he was General Treasurer of the West River and Salem congregation.

Albert Graham was appointed as interim treasurer until the annual congregation meeting, which at that time was still held jointly with Salem. At that meeting he was re-appointed and held the position of General Treasurer for a number of years.

Rev. Verwolf, during his ministry here, gave strong leadership and support to Bible Study. At one point a Bible Reading Campaign was carried on for some time. Rev. Verwolf prepared discussion lessons and arranged for every family to receive a copy of the lesson. Discussion groups were set up in each district to read, study and discuss each lesson.

He also had a very active and vibrant young people's group. As a result of his work with this group, three young men from the Durham church committed themselves to study for the Christian ministry; namely, Joseph McDonald, Lawrence Blaikie and Donald MacDonald.

During Rev. Verwolf's ministry Saltsprings, by act of Presbytery, became part of the congregation on June 26, 1933, thereafter the charge was known as the West River, Salem and Saltsprings charge. Although they had been meeting jointly for some time before this, now they were officially united.

Douglas Young, a son of Dr. L. L. Young, missionary to Korea, supplied the pulpit from June 1st to July 21st, 1937, while the Verwolfs were on vacation.

It was also during the period of Rev. Verwolf's ministry here that the Presbyterian synod of the Maritime Provinces met in Pictou to celebrate or recognize the one hundred and fifty years since Dr. James MacGregor came to Pictou County.

Rev. Verwolf delivered an address on the topic of the West River Presbyterian Seminary and its history while in West River.

The Verwolfs kept in touch with the congregation here after their return to the United States, and it was with sadness the news was received here April 29, 1958, of the passing of Mrs. Verwolf. She had survived a very serious operation for a malignant brain tumour. They could not remove the tumour completely, so that she survived for only eight weeks, and passed on to glory on April 25th, 1958, at the age of 52 years.

In the summer of 1967 Rev. Verwolf and his second wife, Marie, (a cousin of either Rev. Verwolf or his first wife Fannie), were planning a visit to Nova Scotia. He wished to stand in each of the three pulpits where he had served, and preach again. This was arranged, and they arrived after a tour of Cape Breton Island. It being the weekend, Rev. Verwolf preached from the three pulpits, Durham, Salem and Saltsprings on September 10, 1967, as he had done so many years earlier.

In looking over old records, it is interesting that they shared the same birthday, also their marriage date.

- -William Verwolf was born July 22, 1906.
- -- Fannie Haveman was born July 22, 1905.
- -- They were married also on July 22, 1933.

Since writing this account of the Verwolfs, the following appeared in the May 1996 issue of the *Presbyterian Record:*

"Verwolf, Rev. William, 89, died March 4, 1996 in Lynden, Washington.

William Verwolf was born in Amsterdam, Montana. He had received his Bachelor's degree from Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan, and his theological training at Calvin Seminary. His ordained ministry began in 1932 in the pastoral charge of Durham, Green Hill and Saltsprings, N.S. His preaching and devotion to God profoundly affected young people in those congregations, four of whom responded to the call of the ministry of Word and Sacraments. In 1937 he was called to Summerside, P.E.I., where he served until 1942, when he returned to the Christian Reformed Church in the United States. His ministry then covered a large geographical area from Alaska to Illinois.

William Verwolf was predeceased by his first wife, Fannie, in 1958. He is survived by his second wife, Marie, sons John, David, William and Fred, several grandchildren and great-grandchildren."



Rev. William and Fannie Verwolf



Rev. and Mrs. Verwolf with their sons, David, Billy and John

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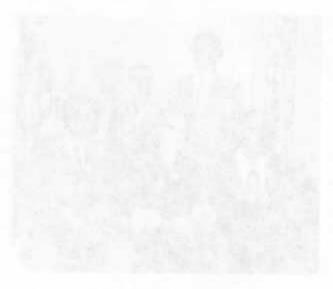
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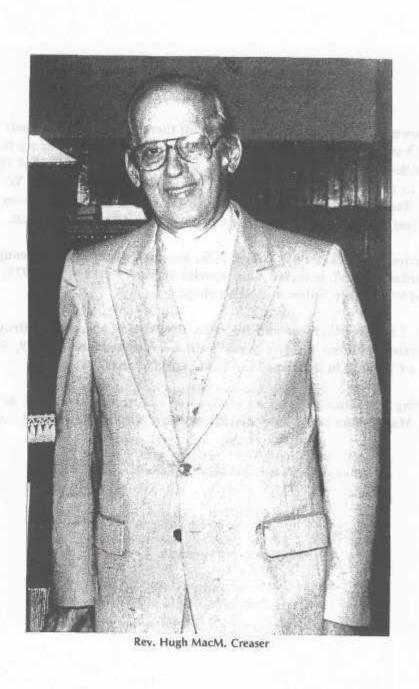
Rev. Charles H. MacLean 1938 - 1943

Following the departure of Rev. Verwolf there appear to be periods of pulpit vacancy. I have no notes on the interim moderator. Evidently, during the stormy winter months there were many Sundays with no services. Some of the names mentioned as preaching included Herbert Buntain, a student, Rev. P. W. Murray, Rev. Perry Rockwood, Rev. Bryant, Rev. Mitchell, and a Rev. Grant from Ontario. There was just Sunday supply, until the coming of Rev. Charles MacLean.

Charles H. MacLean of Oxford, N.S., accepted a call from the congregation and was ordained and inducted at a special service on July 14, 1938, into the pastorate of West River, Salem and Saltsprings.

Rev. Charles MacLean and his wife, the former Margaret Gilroy, also of Oxford, ministered here for five years until he resigned on May 19, 1943, and enlisted as a Chaplain in the armed forces of World War II.

During his ministry here an election of elders was held, and as a result, George W. MacLennan and Daniel Blackie were ordained and inducted on January 18, 1942.



Rev. Hugh M. Creaser 1944 - 1948

Until the coming of Rev. Hugh Creaser to the charge, we were under the care of Rev. Lloyd MacLellan as Interim Moderator. The pulpit was supplied on a Sunday by Sunday basis, most often by Lloyd MacLellan, providing communion services and other ordinances.

The following are some of the ministers mentioned as serving:

Rev. Murray Y. Fraser,

Rev. Allison MacLean,

Rev. Joe MacDonald,

Rev. Black for summer supply.

Until July of 1943 the charge was still without a settled pastor. Names mentioned as supply were:

Rev. Lloyd MacLellan,

Rev. Murray Y. Fraser,

Rev. H.L. Jost.

Donald MacDonald supplied quite frequently. Possibly at this period he was attending college.

Rev. Hugh M. Creaser, a native of Lunenberg, N.S., was presented a call from the West River pastoral charge, which he accepted and was inducted on July 31, 1944. He served the pastoral charge of West River, Salem and Saltsprings with faithfulness and diligence, with the support of his mother, Mrs. Mary Creaser, until his resignation four years later on April 4th, 1948.

Among those whose lives were touched by the ministry of Rev. Charles MacLean and Rev. Hugh Creaser was Allan MacLeod, who typed the manuscript for this booklet. Now retired after 29 years of missionary service in West Africa, Allan still remembers the ministry of these men, and especially of Rev. Hugh Creaser, who, when Allan was in High School, encouraged him to consider investing his life in Christian service.

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A VACANT PERIOD 1948 - 1951

Following the resignation of Rev. Hugh Creaser in April, 1948, Rev. Howard Grace supplied the pulpit on a regular basis during the summer of 1948, from May to September 30.

For quite a period thereafter services were provided by weekly supply, most frequently by Rev. George Lamont, also by Rev. H. M. Buntain and by Donald McDonald.

During the winter of 1949, Rev. James Williams provided evening services, then in early spring the churches again had scattered supply.

James St. Marie, a student from Ontario, supplied the pulpit from May 21st to October 17th, 1950.

After James St. Marie left, Rev. J. H. Williams supplied evening services, with the support of guest preachers. Especially in the spring such names as Wendell MacNeill, Rev. McElwain, Rev. H. M. Buntain and John Sim appear.

Robert Clubine from Ontario, also a student for the ministry, supplied the pulpits of the three preaching points during the summer of 1951, from June 10 to September 6.

After Mr. Clubine left for college, Rev. James Williams provided evening services, with a few guest speakers appearing, until the coming of Rev. James M. Grant in November of 1951.

CONTROL THANKS

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Rev. James M. Grant 1951 - 1956

Rev. James M. Grant, a native of Marshy Hope, N.S., was inducted into this charge on November 23, 1951. He ministered for just a little over four years, until his resignation in January of 1956.

The first funeral he conducted in the congregation after beginning his ministry was that of his senior elder, Albert Graham, which was held on November 29th, 1951. The *Presbyterian Record* recorded his death as follows:

ALBERT E. GRAHAM

"Durham Presbyterian Church lost by death on November 27, 1951 Albert E. Graham, at the age of 79. He had been a member of the Kirk session for 26 years and its clerk for 23 years.

Mr. Graham was a devoted and faithful elder, a pillar of strength in his church and community and keenly interested in the work of the kingdom of God. Sincere sympathy is extended to his wife and family"

As there were only two elders at this time, an election of elders was called, and on April 13, 1952, Forbes MacLean, Rettie MacIntosh and J. Stanley Graham were ordained as elders. James M. McDonald was appointed to the position of Clerk of Session for Durham and Salem church sessions to fill the vacancy.

During his ministry here, at a special meeting on May 2, 1952, plans were made to transfer the ownership of the old hall from the W.M.S. of Durham church, to become a part of the Durham church property. The resolution was as follows:

"Whereas the W.M.S. of Durham Presbyterian Church has offered their hall to the Ladies Guild of said church, and whereas any property of Ladies Guild is automatically church property, be it resolved that the said hall be received and become part of Durham Presbyterian church. Three men of the congregation and three ladies of the Guild to be the Committee, and first two names to be retired each year, moved and seconded by Clifton Wood and Harold Robley."

Twenty years later, after the building of the new hall beside the church and its dedication on May 7th, 1972, the old hall across the road was demolished.

On April 30, 1953, Rev. Grant organized a Mens' Club of Durham Church, which has carried on faithfully and is still active to this present day.

George W. McLennan, senior elder, passed away April 30, 1952. Soon after this money was being collected for an organ. On October 11, 1953, a new organ was dedicated in memory of Mr. and Mrs. George W. MacLennan.

Other memorials noted during his ministry were:

--April 26, 1953, a pulpit falls was dedicated in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Cameron, Loch Broom, on behalf of Mr. and Mrs. Percy Mulholland. The memorial was dedicated by Alfred Cameron, son of the late Mr. and Mrs. D. Cameron.

--Two attractive hymnal boards were presented to the church by Mr. and Mrs. Mulholland. They were suitably thanked by Rev. J. M. Grant.

-April 18, 1954, collection plates were presented:
In Memory of Hubert E. Grice
Choir Leader
Presented by his Wife

Collection Plate
In Remembrance of John Robert Fraser
Presented by his Sister-in-law Florence
1954

Collection Plate
In Remembrance of Kenneth Charles Fraser
Presented by his wife Florence
1954

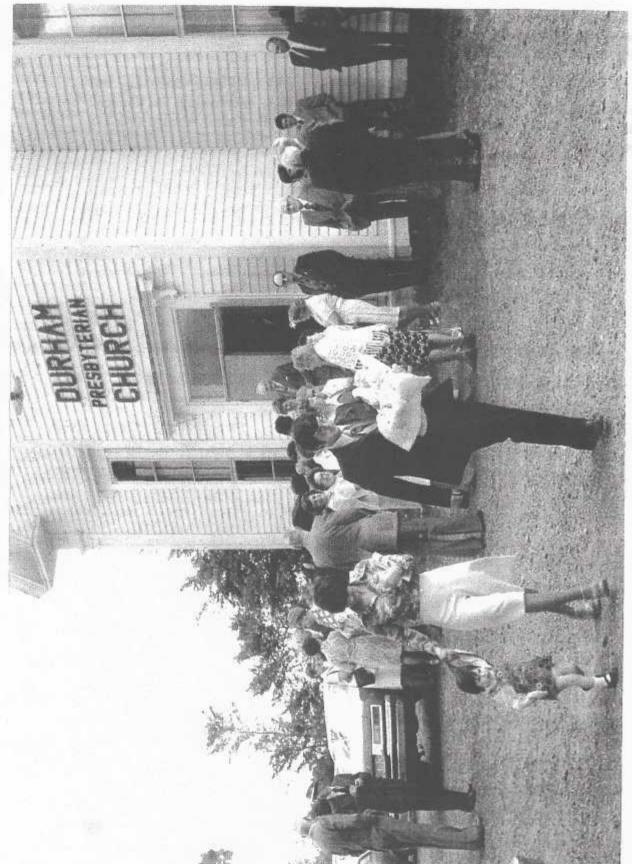
In the fall of 1955, Rev. James and Annabelle Grant and daughters Irene and Miriam, (both born in Durham), accepted a call from a church in Huntingdon, Quebec.

A social evening was held for them on January 10th, 1956, and Rev. Grant preached his farewell sermon January 15, 1956, after just over four years in the charge.

Some years later he wrote the book "The Merchant of Marshy Hope", which was published in 1977. Many of his friends here procured a copy and consider it an added treasure in their library.

Years later St. Andrew's Church, Westville, Nova Scotia, extended a call to Rev. and Mrs. Grant who were at that time in Leamington, Ontario. The call was accepted and they moved to Westville. After spending a few years in that charge Rev. Grant retired from active ministry.

Now retired and living in Ontario to be nearer their daughters, they still return to Nova Scotia and spend the summer at their cosy cottage on Cariboo Island, not far removed from friends in their former fields of labor who may wish to visit them.



The Durham Church and Congregation-1970

Rev. Howard Grace 1956 - 1957

Following the resignation of Rev. James Grant and before calling Rev. Howard Grace, Mr. Albert Henderson supplied the pulpit most of the winter and summer until September 8, 1956, before going to college.

Then the congregation extended a call to Rev. Howard Grace, which he accepted and was inducted October 23, 1956 to minister to the West River, Salem and Saltsprings charge. During his time here he began a congregational visitation plan.

On October 20, 1957, he announced his resignation from the pulpit, and terminated his duties November 18th, 1957.

ANOTHER VACANCY PERIOD 1957 - 1962

During the summer of 1958, my personal diary records John Sim conducting our church services as early as April 27th. He spent all summer with us until September 13th, when the congregation held a social evening for him. He conducted his final service on September 21, 1958, before returning to college.

Two months later, in November, word was received of the tragic deaths of John Sim and his wife Carol (MacRae) Sim in an apartment fire in Montreal. Their joint funeral service was largely attended, and was held in St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, Westville, in November of 1958.

Gerald Stanford, a layman who had arranged to take studies at Pictou Academy, supplied the pulpits, beginning regular duties October 12, 1958, and term-inated his duties May 10, 1959. Gerald and his wife and family occupied the manse at Durham.

In 1959 two Bibles were received from the Presbyterian College in Montreal in memory of John and Carol Sim. These were dedicated and a letter of thanks and appreciation was sent to the College from the Durham congregation.

Following Gerald Stanford's sojourn here, <u>Bruce Gordon</u>, a student, and his wife Brenda from the U.S.A. supplied the pulpit during the summer of 1959. He

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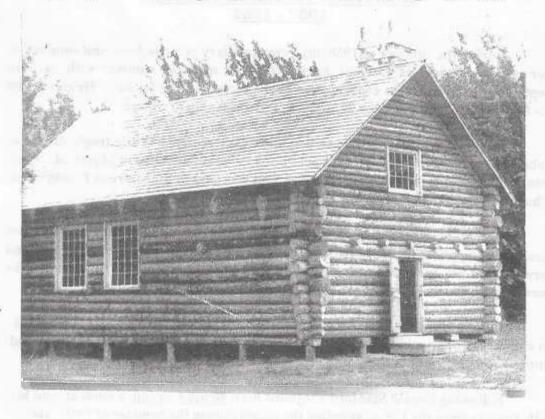
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preached his farewell sermon on September 6, 1959, and returned to college. They returned the following summer and he conducted that summer's farewell message on September 4, 1960. They were a very friendly and out-going couple.

During a period with no steady Sunday supply the charge had several men conduct services. They included: Robert Fraser, a layman from Thorburn; a young student in the early spring and summer; also a Mr. Vanderlink. After these Rev. Langley MacLean carried on until the fall of 1961. We were then fortunate to have Rev. MacIntosh MacLeod carry on quite steadily until the coming of Rev. Pauley.

THE LOG CHURCH



Rev. Frederick Pauley, D.D. 1962 - 1975

The congregation of West River, Salem, and Saltsprings extended a call to Rev. Frederick Pauley who was serving the Pugwash, Oxford, and Riverview pastoral charge. He accepted the call and was inducted April 5, 1962 into his new field of service.

In the year 1964 extensive renovations were being carried out in the church sanctuary at Durham. The old pews were removed. A new floor and carpeting were laid and many new furnishings were added to enhance the sanctuary.

By the beginning of the new year the church was reopened, and on January 10, 1965, two special services were held. The service at 3:00 pm was conducted by Rev. F. Pauley assisted by Rev. Hugh Creaser of New Glasgow, a former minister of the congregation. Following the re-dedication of the sanctuary, memorial gifts were presented.

The new pews, given in memory of Mr. and Mrs. John A MacLean and Mrs. Robert Stewart, brother of Mrs. MacLean, were presented by Stewart Proudfoot, representing Mrs. Dearborn, foster daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. MacLean. Mrs. Dearborn also donated \$6400, toward the renovation and re-decoration of the church building. Mrs. Dearborn of New Glasgow was present at the service.

Other memorials were also presented and dedicated, among them the following:

- -The picture "The Last Supper" was unveiled by Miss Heather Proudfoot, representing her mother, Mrs. Stewart Proudfoot, who worked and donated the picture in memory of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. George William MacLean.
- -A pulpit lamp was presented in memory of Mrs. Emily Archibald by Mrs. J. W. Field, representing the family of the late Mrs. Archibald.
- --Flowers were placed in the church in memory of Mrs. David Clark by members of her family, and in memory of Mr. and Mrs. N. N. Hamblin by their daughter Muriel Boutilier.

At the 8:15 pm evening service special music was rendered by the choir under the direction of Mr. James Grice, with Mrs. James Grice at the organ. Rev. Pauley's sermon topics were "The Temple of the Lord", and "What Makes a Church Really Great".

Other memorial gifts followed:

- --On January 17, 1965, a new pulpit was presented by Mrs. Catherine MacKenzie in memory of her husband David E. MacKenzie, and of her son Warren E. MacKenzie who died as a prisoner of war in 1945.
- --The March 7, 1965 church bulletin extended thanks and appreciation to Lloyd Grice, New Glasgow, for the gift of blinds for the church sanctuary. It also stated that "A memorial fund has been established for the church. Committee: Eileen Emery, Secretary-treasurer, Forbes MacLean, James Grice and Mrs. L. MacLean".
- --In August, 1965, the family of the late Mr. and Mrs. Campbell McCallum presented \$200. for 125 psalm books, the remainder to go to purchase a table for the church entrance.
- --Also in 1965, the table in the rear of the church sanctuary was presented by Mr. and Mrs. James Grice in memory of his parents, and his brothers Carl and Bert. All the above were duly presented and dedicated.

At a special service held at Durham on May 23, 1966, at 8:00 pm a Hallman two-manual electric organ was presented and dedicated in memory of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Sobey by their family, Mr. Frank Sobey, Mr. Harold Sobey, and Mrs. E. Sinclair, sons and daughter and also the grand-children of the late Mr. and Mrs. Sobey.

Rev. Frederick Pauley, minister of the church, on behalf of the Kirk, session, and the congregation expressed thanks to all concerned for the gift. Following the dedication of the organ, Mrs. J. S. Roe of St. Andrews Church, New Glasgow, gave an organ recital, and Rev. Roe sang several selections.

- --In June, 1967, an organ lamp was dedicated in memory of Mr. James Grice, Choir Leader, placed by members of the choir.
- --The Durham Cemetery committee and Session sponsored a Centennial service July 16, 1967, at 3:00 o'clock at the cemetery in memory of Rev. Duncan Ross and other dignitaries.
- -The tower bell was presented by the MacDonald family in memory of their parents Mr. and Mrs. Daniel MacDonald, Sylvester, N.S., and was dedicated July 21, 1968.
- --Other gifts followed: On August 4, 1968, a baptismal font was dedicated in memory of Mr. John Stevenson, presented by his brother George Stevenson.

--On April 6, 1969, a stacked communion service was dedicated as a memorial gift by Mrs. Vesta Kennedy and family of the late Fulton McKean.

-The August 3, 1969, church bulletin extended thanks to the Ladies Guild and Men's Club for the Gestetner and typewriter for use in meeting the printing needs of the church.

--In September 1969, communion trays were dedicated in memory of the late Mr. and Mrs. Jack Fraser.

In March 1968 an election of elders was held, as a result Donald R. MacKenzie and Allan Wood were ordained as Elders on March 31, 1968.

The last five years of Rev. Pauley's ministry in the pastorate proved to be interesting and eventful years also.

The Pictou Presbytery of the Presbyterian church held a special service on the 22nd day of September, 1970, to recognize the 150th anniversary of Rev. James Ross. Dr. Nicholson was present representing Pine Hill Divinity College, Halifax. The congregation was presented with a plaque in memory of Dr. James Ross. It reads:

1811 - 1886

Minister of this Congregation
Pioneer Professor of Theology
second President of Dalhousie University
Erected by Pine Hill Divinity Hall
on the 150th
Anniversary of its foundation,
September 20, 1970

Rev. Frederick Pauley had earlier received his honorary Doctor of Divinity degree at the fall convocation of Pine Hill Divinity College.

1971 was again a year of building. After much planning the sod was turned at a special ceremony November 14, 1971, to signal the construction of the new hall building. This would provide a much needed facility for all the Christian education groups as well as the many meetings held in the interests of church life.

Construction proceeded rapidly, so that in May of the following year all was ready for the grand opening. The following invitation was prepared:

"The Congregation of the Durham - West River Presbyterian Church extends to you a cordial welcome to attend our special services at 11:00 am and 7:00 pm May 7, 1972,

to consecrate the 100th anniversary of our church building and to dedicate the opening of our new Church Hall.

On behalf of the Congregation,

James M. MacDonald,

Dr. F. Pauley, Moderator,

The following Sunday, May 14, the Sunday School held its first classes in the new building, a welcome change from the dangerous crossing of a busy highway to reach the old hall building, requiring two persons each Sunday to patrol the highway crossing traffic. Soon after the opening of the new hall, the old hall was demolished.

A committee had been working on a revised edition of the Presbyterian Book of Praise. In our church at Durham, January 6, 1973, was set aside as the Sunday for introducing the use of the new edition of the Book of Praise at the worship service.

On July 29, 1973, six communion chairs were presented and dedicated in memory of Mrs. Clifford MacLellan by the family.

A lovely wooden Collection Plate in the church hall was given "In memory of Rena (McIntosh) placed by Rev. and Mrs. Grant, 1973."

In 1973 Mrs. Hannah (Graham) Lufkin, a former member of this church as a younger person, was present at a morning church service and made a present of tower lights for the church and dedicated them in memory of Albert Graham and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Graham and family.

The sum of \$1000, was also given "To be invested and the interest be used for the maintenance of the lights."

The new blue-covered Book of Praise was introduced and began regular use in the church services January 6, 1974. On that same Sunday an organist's copy of the Book of Praise was presented in memory of Johnson Wilson by Mr. and Mrs. Fred Poole of Upper La Have and Mr. and Mrs. Dan Purdy of Westphal.

A dedication ceremony for the setting up of a church library in the hall was held following the morning service of January 13, 1974.

A bookcase was presented by Stanley and Calvin Graham and dedicated in memory of their parents and sister Katherine. Miss Florence Rathbone donated \$200, and books for the library were purchased and dedicated in memory of her mother and brother. Books were presented by Mrs. Forbes MacLean and dedicated in memory of her parents and brother Elmer. Books were also presented by Peggy and Laurina in memory of their mother, Mrs. Rettie MacIntosh.

Following the dedication service more than 100 persons sat down to a potluck dinner supplied by the Mens' Club. The Salem congregation joined Durham for this service.

On April 28, 1974, Mrs. Henry Millar presented a gift of money to purchase library books in memory of Mrs. J. A. Brown.

Mrs. Margaret Heron also made several donations in memory of her husband, the late Mr. Alex Heron.

Other books have been added over the years, and anyone is encouraged to enjoy the reading of the books.

THE LOG CHURCH

Whenever the subject of the Loch Broom log church arises our thoughts naturally turn to Rev. Pauley. For a person born in Ireland and a new arrival in our country, he showed an amazing interest in the history of the place and especially in the history of the first places of worship, one of which, of course, was the log church.

Perhaps the events of the history of the log church should have been entered in their proper sequence, just as they happened, but we decided to describe the events in this one section.

Although services had been held in earlier years to commemorate special events, Rev. Pauley held a special baptismal service on September 6th, 1964, at which sixteen baptisms were performed. Rev. Pauley suggested at this time that it would be appropriate to have a stone cairn to mark this site as historic, and that he would make the suggestion at a Presbytery meeting.

The idea was acted upon and soon Murdoch McCuish, a stone mason living in Pictou, was contacted and a cairn was erected by him from stones gathered along

the beaches and shore lines by interested young people.

Dr. Will R. Bird of the Nova Scotian branch of the Historic Sites Committee was contacted and they provided an appropriate plaque. At a special service held on Sunday, August 15, 1965, the cairn and plaque were unveiled by Mrs. Daniel Joy of Belmont, Mass., U.S.A., and Mrs. Percy Mulholland of Toronto, both descendants of the early settlers. Dr. Will R. Bird was guest speaker for the event.

A celebration to recognize the arrival of the ship *Hector* from Scotland in 1773 was being organized in Pictou County, and various groups were planning special events which were to culminate in special services being held by all the different denominations.

Mr. Archie Cameron, a member of the Hector Celebration Committee, suggested the project of a replica of the original log church, and encouraged the citizens of the county to build one. This was acted upon, and a study of the plans and style of the first building were carried out, so as to have it built as nearly as possible to the original building's specifications.

Soon work began: logs and many other things were donated and many willing volunteers spent many hours of their time working to make their plans a reality.

The official opening was on July 29, 1973. Many dignitaries were invited and were present. Rev. George Reid, Moderator of the Assembly of the Church of Scotland, arrived at the scene by canoe paddled by George Brittan by way of the West River, even as Rev. MacGregor had done many years before.

The service began at 3:00 pm with Rev. Vernon Tozer, Moderator of the Pictou Presbytery, presiding. The act of dedication of the church and furnishings was by Dr. Agnew Johnson, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. Dr. Clinton Marsh, Moderator of the General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church in the United States gave the prayer of dedication.

Rev. Gordon Matheson, Moderator of the Synod of the Atlantic Provinces, took part in the service and Dr. George Reid of Scotland preached the dedicatory sermon. The people attending were estimated at about 2000. The Heatherbell Pipe Band from Pictou played several selections. Otherwise there was no music. The service was kept simple like the service held 200 years ago. A pulpit Bible was dedicated that day in loving memory of Andrew Scott MacLean Adams, a direct descendant of James MacCabe.

It was announced at the close of the service that the church would be open daily from the last Sunday in June until the first Sunday in September. A guide would be present all season to welcome visitors and to explain the history of the early church. It has proved a popular tourist attraction.

A detailed account of the building and dedication of the Log Church are recorded in the book "The Log Church at Loch Broom" by Roland H. Sherwood.

Rev. Fred Pauley had been a strong supporter of the Log Church from the beginning. In 1975 he announced his retirement from the pastoral duties of the West River, Salem and Saltsprings charge, effective March 31, 1975.

At the morning service of March 30 Dr. Pauley preached his farewell sermon, using as his text "Come Alive Fest", and the scripture "Be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord", using the closing hymn "The strife is o'er, the battle won", followed by the benediction.

On Sunday evening a service was held in Durham church. Salem church joined in the service. Rev. Walden Moase, who had been appointed as interim moderator to care for the congregation during the vacancy, conducted the service.

Following the service a social hour was held. Donald MacKenzie, chairman for the social hour, called Dr. and Mrs. Pauley forward and many gifts from the various organizations were presented, among them an engraved wrist watch and a purse of money.

Many clergymen from surrounding churches were present and brought greetings, also many telegrams and letters were read.

Dr. and Mrs. Pauley graciously thanked all for their gifts and expressed appreciation for the friendship and kindness shown them during their ministry here.

The Pauleys retired in Durham to be near their many friends, where they lived in an apartment belonging to John and Edith Fraser.

After about four years retirement, the ties and thoughts of friends and love for the land of their birth persuaded the Pauleys to plan for a return to Ireland after residing in Nova Scotia for 26 years, so that in October of 1979 with bags packed they took flight to Ireland.

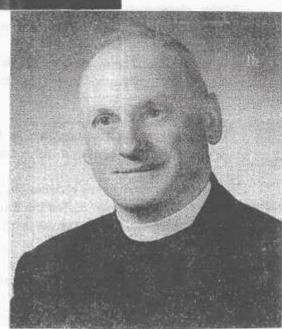
Dr. Pauley was not long in the homeland when he passed away suddenly on December 26, 1979.

The Pictou Presbytery of the Presbyterian church held a service of memory and thanksgiving for the life of Rev. Fred Pauley, D.D., on March 2, 1980. Members of the Presbytery took part in the service. There were flowers on the flower stand given by Mrs. Pauley, a memorial book on the table at the back of the sanctuary was signed by those present, and forwarded to Mrs. Pauley in Ireland.

May Pauley, now bereaved but sustained by the love of sisters and friends, after a period of poor health, passed on to her reward November 10, 1983. Miss Helen Sutherland has a lovely picture of the grave stone with their names on it, and dates relating to their deaths inscribed.



Rev. Fred and May Pauley



Rev. Fred Pauley

Rev. John L. Archibald 1976 - 1979

We were now without a settled minister since March 31, 1975. Rev. W. B. Moase had been appointed Interim Moderator by Presbytery for the oversight of the congregation. He was fortunate in securing the services of Mr. John Tonks for the first few months, then Rev. George MacDonald was engaged to carry on the services from July 1st to September 14, 1975. However, according to entries in my personal diary, he conducted services each Sunday until the end of the year. Then we had guest speakers supplying the pulpit until the coming of Rev. Jack Archibald, who was inducted as pastor of the congregation at a special service on July 27, 1976.

The Archibalds were from the Toronto area. "Jack" was born John L. Archibald on July 9, 1947, the son of Milton and Mary Archibald. He was raised in Toronto, and after receiving his schooling, he worked for Air Canada as a passenger agent. He then entered the University of Guelph, Ontario, as a mature student, graduated in Sociology, then worked as an Insurance Underwriter. He entered Knox College in September 1973, graduated, and then responded to a pastoral call from the West River, Salem and Saltsprings charge.

Marian Archibald was the only daughter of Mario and Ninetta Di Gangi, a Presbyterian minister. She was raised in Hamilton, Ontario, and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She attended the University of Guelph in Ontario, then worked as a Medical Underwriter to put Jack through college.

Jack and Marian were married June 24, 1972. They have two children: Martha, born April 15, 1978, while here in Durham, and Andrew, born August 14, 1980, in Belleville, Ontario.

Mr. James MacDonald retired as joint Treasurer of the West River, Salem and Saltsprings charge, and a testimonial dinner was held in his honor following the morning church service and prepared by the church managers. I quote from a news clipping:

"Following the service a testimonial dinner was held to honor James MacDonald, clerk of session of the West River charge, who has retired after being Treasurer for 27 years, prepared by the Managers of the congregation."

Donald MacKenzie was chairman; members of the MacDonald family were seated at the head table, also Rev. and Mrs. John Archibald, Dr. and Mrs. Fred Pauley, Rev. Bruce Robertson, and Rev. Robert Cruickshank.

On behalf of the congregation Rev. Archibald presented Mr. MacDonald with a

piece of luggage and Mrs. MacDonald was presented a bouquet of red roses by Mrs. Archibald. Mr. and Mrs. MacDonald expressed thanks and appreciation to everyone.

Dr. Pauley extended greetings and best wishes. Greetings were also extended by Rev. Robert Cruickshank, Moderator of Pictou Presbytery, and by Rev. Bruce Robertson, Moderator of the Atlantic Provinces. Mr. MacDonald will be succeeded as Treasurer by John Fraser."

The Session recommended that Bibles be placed in the pews, the money to be taken from the Memorial Fund. The Bibles were dedicated November 6, 1977.

At a November 17, 1977, Session meeting the building of a Nursery in the hall was discussed and approved, and the Managers were to be notified.

On January 12, 1978, the congregation was shocked and saddened by the sudden passing of our beloved Elder and Clerk, Mr. James MacDonald. The Session prepared the following tribute:

"The Session records with profound sorrow the sudden passing of our Clerk of Session, James M. MacDonald. His devotion to the Lord Jesus Christ and his church was well known and deeply appreciated. He served as Elder in the Durham Church for thirty-six years, Clerk of Session for twenty-five years. He also served as Presbytery Treasurer.

His wisdom and guidance will be greatly missed by our congregation and the community. Our sympathy and prayers are extended to Mrs. MacDonald and family. Two minutes silence was observed, followed by prayer by Rev. Archibald."

Later there is this quote from minutes: "Duties of the Clerk of Session were outlined by the Moderator, followed by a discussion on appointment of a Clerk. Moved by Murray Mann, seconded by Allan Wood, that Stanley Graham be Clerk of Session. Motion carried."

The late J. Welsford MacDonald had bequeathed \$2000, to the congregation. It was brought before the 1978 Church Annual Meeting and after discussion it was unanimously approved that this amount be invested and the accumulated interest be invested each year in the Session Fund and used each year as follows:

- In meeting expenses incurred by the Kirk Session in its regular business, e.g. Bibles for new members.
- (2) In meeting special needs in the church and community deemed suitable by the Session. (e.g. a sudden and serious financial need, or needs arising

from disasters) In this way help can be offered in complete confidentiality.

(3) In one or more special mission projects chosen by Session. This amount would be the year end balance after 1st and 2nd (items above). This was passed at a February 14, 1978, Session meeting.

On April 20, 1978, an election of Elders was held. As a result John Fraser and James Hogg were chosen and on May 28, 1978, John Fraser was received by induction, and James Hogg by ordination and induction.

In the minutes of November 22, 1978, we have the following quote: "On motion of James Hogg and seconded by John Fraser that \$5000. from the Falconer Bond be used to establish the 'Falconer Christian Education Fund' and that the interest be used as necessary for the Sunday School and other children and youth work in the congregation, to be distributed at the discretion of the Session. Motion carried."

A congregational dinner was held of the three churches: Durham, Salem and Saltsprings at Durham on February 4, 1979. Communion linen was dedicated in memory of James MacDonald, late Clerk of Session.

Following the church service the congregation met in the hall and enjoyed a potluck dinner, hosted by the Men's Club. At this gathering a special presentation was made to Rev. and Mrs. Jack Archibald who have resigned and are going to Belleville, Ontario.

Rev. Jack and Marian Archibald left here on February 12, 1979, for their new charge in a Presbyterian church in Belleville, Ontario, where they ministered until December 1984 when they responded to a call from St. Andrew's Church, Parry Sound, Ontario, where they still labour.



Rev. "Jack" and Marian Archibald

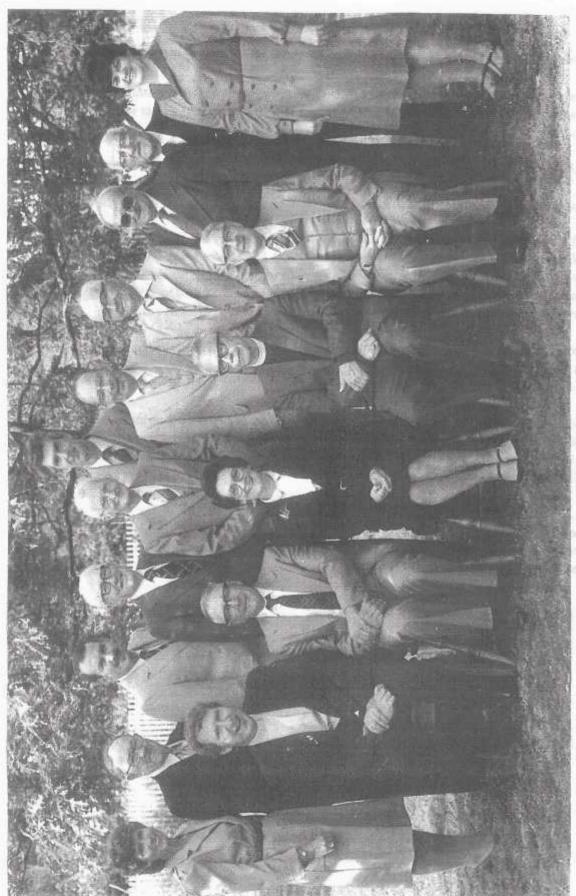


Photo taken during the visit of the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church Murray Mann, Angus McNeill, Mrs. Sandra MacCulloch. Front row, seated I. to r., Rev. D. W. during 1983, (see p. 63). Standing, back row, I. to r., Mrs. Marie Langille, Robert Fraser, Fred Hampton, Forbes McLean, Allan Wood, Donald MacKenzie, James Hogg, Rettie MacIntosh, MacKay, Charles MacDonald, Mrs. Donald C. MacDonald, Rev. Donald C. MacDonald, Moderator, and J. Stanley Graham.

Rev. Donald W. MacKay 1979 - 1984

Donald Walker MacKay was born in New Glasgow and received his early education there before entering University to prepare for the ministry. He studied at Acadia University, then the Presbyterian College and MacGill University. He then ministered in Nigeria, West Africa, under the Board of World Mission of the Presbyterian Church.

He was minister of the Mary Slessor Memorial Presbyterian Church from 1971 to 1978. He then returned to New Glasgow, Nova Scotia, to be near his mother who was in failing health.

As the West River, Salem and Saltsprings charge was vacant, Rev. Lloyd Murdock, who had been appointed Interim Moderator of the charge, engaged Rev. MacKay as stated supply, beginning some time in the autumn of 1979. On June 12, 1980, he was inducted as minister of the pastoral charge.

Perhaps two events that took place before the induction of Rev. MacKay should be noted. On June 24, 1979, a special service under the direction of Presbytery was held at Durham on a Sunday. Rev. Walter Moase, Moderator of Presbytery, officiated at the Service of Designation of Mrs. Joan Smith Ashley to the Order of Deaconesses. Rev. Lloyd Murdock, Interim Moderator of the congregation, took part.

Dr. Fred Pauley preached the sermon entitled "Christ's Call To Service", followed by the offertory hymn "We Give Thee But Thine Own". After a Prayer of Dedication, an Act of Designation, and Narration of Steps, Rev. Walden Moase asked Joan the questions and prayer. Miss June Pratt, deaconess, presented Joan with the pin of the Order of Deaconess. The choir rendered the anthem "Wherever He Leads, I'll Go". The service closed with prayer, the closing hymn "O Jesus, I Have Promised", and the Benediction. A fellowship hour followed in the hall, and gifts and presentations were made to Joan.

Joan is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ross Smith. She is a graduate of West Pictou District High School, and of Ewart College. She was married to Sean Ashley in August, 1996, in Durham church.

Another important event in our church's history was the presentation of stained glass windows in memory of the late James M. MacDonald.

The three churches, Durham, Salem and Saltsprings met jointly Sunday morning, July 15, 1979, for the dedication of the stained glass windows. Douglas

MacDonald unveiled the windows in memory of his father, James Maxwell MacDonald, on behalf of the MacDonald family. Dr. Donald C. MacDonald, brother of the late James M. MacDonald, received the memorial on behalf of the Session and congregation.

Dr. Donald C. MacDonald, who is Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, had charge of the service. Rev. Fred Pauley assisted. The theme of the windows are "The Word" and "The Sacraments", and were chosen by Rev. Jack Archibald, former minister of the congregation.

An interesting activity was the plans and preparation for the sponsorship of a family of Boat People, an ethnic Chinese family from Vietnam. Although the three churches as well as Alma United Church and community were involved, Durham seemed to be the "hub".

The Edward Blaikie home, vacant at the time, was opened up for them and furnished all ready to receive them, when sneak thieves broke into the house and cleaned out the furnishings, but willing hearts soon re-furnished the house with short notice!

The family of six arrived: five brothers and a little sister. Although they spoke no English, willing tutors came every day and they picked up words and sentences quickly. They proved worthy of the trust and confidence people had in the venture. They soon moved out into the work force and showed their appreciation by becoming a success story.

Mrs. Gardia MacDonald was appointed as Superintendant of the Sunday School on October 21, 1981, to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Stanley Graham. To quote from a newspaper clipping:

"A congregational supper was held on Sunday evening, November 22, 1981, in Durham Presbyterian Church hall. A large number of the congregation, former members and friends, were present. The supper was in honor of Stanley Graham, who resigned from being Superintendant of Sunday School for many years. During the supper hour Lorraine MacLean pinned a red rose on Mr. Graham.

Following the supper, Rev. Donald MacKay called Mr. Graham forward and addressed him, speaking of the many years he was a teacher and Superintendant of the Sunday School. Rev. MacKay called on Rettie MacIntosh, who, on behalf of the congregation presented Mr. Graham with an engraved watch. Although completely taken by surprise, he thanked everyone for their gift."

The Zelpha MacLean Mission legacy was discussed and the following motion was drawn up to be presented at the Annual Meeting in January, 1982, that "The Zelpha MacLean Mission legacy be invested and the annual interest be paid toward a mission project."

A legacy of \$5000, was received from the Mulholland estate in 1982. It was discussed, and finally agreed, that \$3000, be invested and the remaining \$2000, be held in a savings account for the Managers' use in improvements to the church property.

Near the end of 1982 Mrs. Alice Grice, feeling the stress of being caretaker and organist too great, brought the matter to the attention of the Session. After discussion and consultation Mrs. Grice agreed she would continue another year as organist if she could be relieved of her duties as caretaker. A picture of the Durham church was to be presented to her at the Annual Congregational Meeting.

As Dr. Donald C. MacDonald was Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church during the year 1983, and since he was to visit the Presbytery of Pictou, it was arranged that we have a joint service in Durham of our three churches and in honor of the event the Session met at the Manse at an earlier hour for a photo to be taken of the joint Sessions with our Moderator.

Two other events took place near the end of 1983 — Mrs. Hugh MacDonald resigned as Sunday School Superintendant and was replaced by Mr. David Lavers. Also John M. Fraser resigned the Eldership in Durham Church, much to the regret of his fellow Session members and the congregation.

Another election for elders was then held and as a result Charles Parker (Jr.) and John Anderson were ordained and inducted on June 10th, 1984.

Mrs. Norma Wood was appointed by the Session to replace her mother, Mrs. Grice, as organist, effective January 1st, 1984.

A testimonial dinner was held for Mrs. Alice Grice, retiring organist, on May 6, 1984. She was presented with a wrist watch and an address of appreciation and congratulation was given for her more than forty years of faithful service as organist. The choir at an earlier date had presented Mrs. Grice with an inscribed plaque of appreciation.

It being held in conjunction with our church anniversary celebration, the occasion was suitably recognized and a paper on the church history of the congregation was read.

Our minister, Rev. Donald W. MacKay, was again feeling the call of God toward the mission field after the passing of his mother. On June 27, 1984, the Presbytery held a special Designation Service for Rev. MacKay at Durham church. At this service, held jointly with the three preaching points, our minister preached his farewell sermon. His ministry terminated June 30th, 1984. A social hour was held in the hall following the service.

Rev. Kenneth Stright of Pictou was appointed Interim Moderator for the congregation by the Presbytery of Pictou.

Rev. Donald W. MacKay returned to Nigeria and taught at Trinity Theological College there. As of July 1997, he could be reached at the following address:

> Rev. Donald W. MacKay Trinity Theological College P.O. Box 97, Umuahia, Abia State, Nigeria, West Africa

The efforts of Mrs Alice Grice, who served as organist at the Durham Presbyterian Church from 1937 to 1983, were honored during the church's andiversary dinner held Sunday evening. Her daughter, Mrs Norma Wood, the present organist, gave her a plaque which had recently been presented by the church choir.

(Harder Photo)

Milton Fraser (Student) May - August, 1985

Following the resignation and departure of Rev. Donald W. MacKay, Rev. Kenneth Stright of Pictou was appointed Interim Moderator for our congregations.

Mr. Milton Fraser from Garden of Eden, N.S., was engaged to serve the congregations for the summer months. He boarded with Rettie MacIntosh and began his duties May 12, 1985.

Milton, with a competent staff of helpers, conducted a successful Vacation Bible School for the children and young people.

He began a Bible Study group for the adults. This was held jointly with the three churches. For the closing session the group met at Rettie MacIntosh's and enjoyed a corn boil and an enjoyable evening of fellowship.

Following the worship service of August 11, the congregation met at the hall for a social hour and made Milton a presentation.

Our last service with Milton Fraser was August 25, 1985, bringing to a close a successful and enjoyable summer.

Since leaving here Milton continued his studies and was ordained in his home church in Garden of Eden, N.S. on June 23, 1989. He is now married and pastor of a church in Thunder Bay, Ontario.



Henderson, Raymond Graham, Rev. Walden Moase, Sharon Wood, Norma Wood, Susan Leslie, The Durham Choir, including Donald MacKenzie, Allister Thompson, Allison MacKenzie, Bob Bill Henderson, Lorraine Henderson, Pat Emery, Joy Roblee, Lois MacLean and Cheryl Leslie.

Rev. Walden B. Moase 1985 - 1992

During the summer of 1985 the West River pastoral charge was preparing a call for Rev. Moase, a native of Prince Edward Island, and son of Darrah and Hazel Moase.

Walden Moase was born in Freetown, P. E. I., where he received his early education, then he spent several years farming. In time he felt the calling of God to study for the ministry and serve the church. He entered Prince of Wales College in P. E. I. and studied there before going to McGill University in Montreal. He studied at the Presbyterian College, Montreal, then served as a student pastor at Inverness, Quebec, for three years. After completing his studies he was ordained in Zion Church, Charlottetown, P. E. I. in 1972.

He and his wife, the former Alma Morrison of South Granville, Queens County, P. E. I., served pastorates in the River John --Toney River charge, also at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Pictou, N.S., then lastly at Clyde River, P. E. I.

While still at Clyde River he received the call from the West River, Salem and Saltsprings congregations. He accepted the call and was inducted into the charge on September 12th, 1985, at an inspiring service held in Durham church and conducted by the Pictou Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church. Following the service a fellowship hour was enjoyed at the hall, when we met our minister and his wife, also their two daughters who were present for the occasion.

The first several weeks were rather disruptive for the Moase family, for that summer the congregation was in the process of building a new manse. Murray Langille had donated a building lot of land. Mr. John McIntosh of Lyons Brook was awarded the contract for the building of the new manse, and the work went steadily forward during the summer of 1985.

By December 15, 1985, an open house was arranged and Rev. and Mrs. Moase were on hand to receive and welcome the many callers from the three preaching points who came to view the results of much planning and labour.

About this time a sum of money was received by the church. Mrs. Hannah (Graham) Lufkin died in July, 1985. She bequeathed a sum of money to Durham Church, the church of her childhood and youthful years. The gift would have been received probably in 1986. I quote from the wording of her will:

"I bequeath the sum of \$2500.00 to Durham Presbyterian Church to be kept safely invested and the interest only to be used for the general purpose of said church." During Rev. Moase's ministry we mourned the passing of two of our Elders who had been ordained in 1952. Forbes MacLean died in 1987 and Rettie MacIntosh in February 1991. Also Mrs. Alice Grice, who had served as organist for so many years, died in 1989.

With the Session greatly reduced an election for new Elders was called. Mr. Allister Thomson and David Lavers were chosen, and were ordained on June 18, 1989.

It must have been about 1989 that the sound system was installed, as comment was made in that year's Annual Report as follows: "The sound system was working well."

David Lavers was appointed Clerk of Session in 1991 following the resignation of Stanley Graham from that duty. David Lavers resigned as Superintendant of the Sunday School when he took over the duties of Clerk of Session, and Mrs. Glenda Cluney was appointed as Sunday School Superintendant.

Two more memorials were added to our list of many gifts dedicated to departed members.

-A chandelier was received in 1989, "In Memory of the late Mr. and Mrs. N. N. Hamblen, Durham, and their family, presented by Mr. and Mrs. Curtis (Muriel Hamblen) Boutilier, September 10, 1989."

-Also, "The Stained Glass Window, 'Go Ye Into the World', is presented to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Clarice Patterson MacLean and Kenneth Forbes MacLean by daughter Joan Quirt, son Kenneth and their families. July 12, 1992."

Rev. Moase was giving serious thought to retirement from active ministry and in October of 1992 his resignation from the West River pastorate after seven years had been received and regretfully accepted. A retirement party was held in the Durham hall on October 25, 1992, to honor their retirement. A gift of money was presented from the three churches, and other gifts were given from various organizations. Mrs. Moase was presented with a lovely bouquet of roses from the three congregations. A buffet lunch was served and a nicely decorated cake was presented to them which they cut and served to their many friends who had gathered to share many good wishes on their retirement.

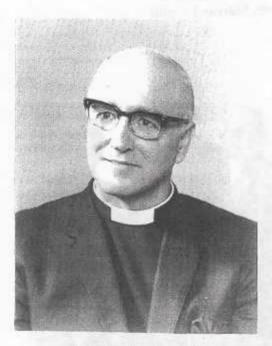
Rev. and Mrs. Moase had built a lovely new home at Durham in preparation for their retirement years, so that although Rev. Moase would no longer serve as

minister, they would be near their many friends, and have time to enjoy gardening, travel and hobbies.

Although retired from active ministry he continued a supply ministry, supplying at Springville and Barney's River. He also continued his interest in the Eastern Star I.O.O.F. #1 in Pictou, and was a member of the Stellarton Male Chorus.

Then he was stricken with ill health, and had to undergo surgery, from which he was recovering when he suffered a severe stroke and passed away January 30, 1997. His remains were taken back to his home province, P. E. L., where a Memorial Service was held at the Floral Hill Cemetery, Pleasant Valley, P. E. L. conducted by Rev. Gordon Matheson of Zion Presbyterian Church.

Mrs. Moase remains at their home in Durham, and attends Durham church, where she is supported by loving friends of the community.



Rev. Walden B. Moase



Rev. Walden and Alma Moase



Handing over the keys to the new Manse-from left: Rev. W. Moase, Hector MacKenzie, Murray Langille and John McIntosh, builder.

Pictou Advocate, Wednesday, December 18, 1985



An 'Open House' was held Sunday afternoon at the newly renovated manse in Durham now occupied by Rev. Waldon Moase, Minister of the West River Pastoral Charge, Among those present were (left to

right) Hector MacKenzie, Chairman of the Joint Board of Managers; Murray Langille, donor of the manse site; Marie Langille, Elder from Saltsprings; Murray Mann, Elder from Salem; Jim Hogg, Elder from Durham and the Rev. Mr Moase. Three churches make up the Charge, Salem Presbyterian, Green Hill; St. Luke's Presbyterian, Saltsprings and West River Presbyterian, Durham. (Sherwood photo)

Rev. William Graham Johnstone 1993 - 1997

Following the resignation of Rev. Moase, Rev. Kenneth Stright was appointed Interim Moderator for the congregation, and Mrs. Jessie Johnson was engaged to supply the pulpit on a regular basis during the vacancy. During the summer of 1993 plans were being made for a call for a settled pastor.

A call was prepared and signed for Rev. William Johnstone at this time serving in Wales, U. K. Presbytery approved and forwarded the call which Rev. Johnstone accepted. He and his wife and family arrived in September, and he was inducted in a service in Durham Church on September 17th, 1993.

William Johnstone was born August 22nd, 1953, in North Sydney, Cape Breton, N.S. He attended Dalhousie University, Halifax, for his Science Degree, then St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, N.S., for Arts and B.Ed. He then attended MacGill University and Presbyterian College, Montreal, for his B.Th. and Master of Divinity. He was ordained by Pictou Presbytery in 1981, then was called as pastor of the congregation of Middle River, Lake Ainslie and Kenloch, N.S. from 1981 to 1986.

He served a congregation in Kitchener, Ontario, from 1986 to 1990, from which he went to a U. R. C. and Methodist congregation in Ogmore Vale, Wales, U. K. from 1990 to 1993.

He and his wife, the former Jessie Jordan of Sherbrooke, N.S. and their two sons, Andrew and Alex now settled into the manse. Mrs. Johnstone had trained in St. Martha's Hospital, Antigonish, N.S. and from there received her certification as a Registered Nurse.

Probably one of the new pastor's first tasks was the dedication of flags. Two flags, the Canadian flag and Nova Scotia flag were prepared and set up. The Men's Club bought the flags and material. James Montgomery and Frank Dykstra did the required work on stands and poles to set them up. They were dedicated on November 7, 1993, Remembrance Day weekend. They were presented by James Montgomery assisted by members of the Boy Scouts. The statement read:

"Rev. Bill Johnstone
We ask you to dedicate these flags
to the Glory of God,
With a prayer from all the members of
the Durham Men's Club.
To make our church and country
stronger by our dedication.
To safeguard the Freedom
For which these flags stand"

On May 15, 1994, a cross was presented and dedicated by Mrs. Shirley Bent of Little Harbour, N.S. in memory of William Scott and Ellen (Dunn) MacKean and their family, Cyril, Gladys, Fulton, George and Edna.

In 1994 Stanley Graham resigned from active membership in the Session, after serving in that capacity for forty-two years, since 1952.

On January 15, 1995, a picture of the late Rev. Dr. Donald C. McDonald was presented by his brother Henry on behalf of the family. David Lavers accepted the picture on behalf of the Session and congregation. The picture hangs beside the windows dedicated in memory of Donald's brother James McDonald.

In 1995 an Election for Elders was called. As a result of the vote, Raymond Graham and James Parker were chosen and were ordained to that office April 23, 1995.

A big project for the congregation during the summer of 1995 was the complete shingling of the church roof.

Rev. Johnstone tendered his resignation from our congregations effective June 1st, 1997, in order to persue studies in counselling at Acadia University.

Before leaving a fellowship hour was held in their honour in the Durham hall. The Session made a presentation of a gift of money, and other organizations also made presentations. All expressed regret at their leaving, and best wishes for their future endeavours.

Rev. Johnstone replied in well chosen words his thanks and appreciation for the gifts and good wishes, also for the support and kindness shown to himself and his family during their ministry here. Rev. Iona MacLean of Pictou was appointed by Presbytery as Interim Moderator for the congregations.

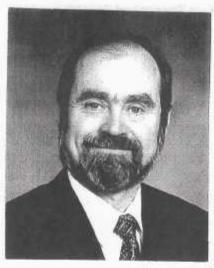
Johannes (Job) Van Hartingsveldt, Student Summer of 1997.

The congregation was fortunate in securing the services of Mr. Job Van Hartingsveldt of Churchville for the summer months. Job was born October 16, 1946, in Ryswyk, the Netherlands, and immigrated to Canada in 1952. He worked in greenhouse management for 15 years in St. Catherines, Ontario, then moved to Nova Scotia where he worked for Michelin for 15 years.

During those years he increasingly felt the call of God to full-time service. He studied at McGill and the Presbyterian College in Montreal, and graduated in May 1998. He was ordained in the First Presbyterian Church, New Glasgow, N.S., on September 28, 1998. He immediately moved to Sudbury, Ontario, to begin his ministry in the Hillside/Knox Pastoral charge.

He was married on June 28, 1968, to Jacqueline J. H. Hogeboom. They have four grown children, Michael, Robert, Rebecca and Joel.

We appreciated his kind, sincere and thoughtful ministry while with us in West River, and will look forward with interest to hearing of God's guidance on the life and ministry of him and his wife in the future.



Rev. "Job" Van Hartingsveldt



Jacqueline Van Hartingsveldt



Rev. Kevin Steeper 1998 --

Rev. Kevin Steeper was raised on a beef farm northwest of London, Ontario. Following high school Kevin attended the University of Windsor where he studied political science and history. After graduating from the University of Windsor he went on to study theology at Knox College and Regis College in Toronto and did further graduate work in theology at St. Paul University in Ottawa.

During his theological studies Kevin served for five years as an Assistant and eventually as a chaplain with two L'Arche communities in Ontario (Christian communities founded by Jean Vanier which are rooted in living out the Beatitudes), ministering to mentally and physically handicapped adults who lived in Christian community.

Kevin was ordained in 1995 and served two rural congregations, Cromarty Presbyterian Church from 1995-1998, and Carmel Presbyterian Church, which was added in 1997-1998, both in southwestern Ontario. He was installed in the West River pastoral charge in May, 1998.

His wife, the former Kate Ballagh of Hamilton, Ontario, graduated from Wilfred Laurier University in Kitchener, Ontario, in October, 1988, then studied at Knox College from 1988-1991. She was ordained, then accepted a call to a joint pastoral charge at Kirkhill, Ontario, where she served for two years, from 1991-1993. She then moved to St. Andrews Presbyterian Church as Associate Pastor from 1993-1998.

Kevin and Kate were married on May 10, 1991, at Southgate Presbyterian Church in Hamilton, Ontario. They have two daughters, Martha Kathleen, born June 13, 1996, and Margaret Amy, born March 19, 1998.

We wish the family God's blessing, and His joy and peace, as they serve the West River charge!

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Postscript

As we conclude this summary of events in the life of our church and of our ministers, we realize there are many, many items that could have been included but in fairness felt we could not get enough information to do justice to the questions.

I'm going to suggest that we include a few blank pages at the end of this booklet so that you can keep a record of new events as they occur, so as to maintain this record up-to-date, or to fill in data or events that we missed.

For instance, I have thought of all the faithful workers that have laboured over the years in the upkeep and maintenance of the church property.

Who were the first janitors or caretakers? We well remember George and Charlie Fraser who were sort of legendary because of their tender caring for the church for so many years. I believe their father, James Fraser, was caretaker for many years also. But what years did they serve?

Or who were the first treasurers and secretaries--and those that followed? And over what years did they serve?

It would be interesting to know which minister first had an automobile to travel around with. The first ministers of course had horses. I wonder who supplied the hay and feed?

My mind wanders to the many ministers and lay preachers who supplied the pulpit from time to time. Not all of them are in our record, but appreciated none the less.

Keep a pen or pencil handy! It's up to you to add to this record now!

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Appendix I

Church Music

Music, praise and adoration are part of our Christian heritage, and even earlier than the beginning of the Christian Church.

The angels and the host of heaven sang as they announced the birth of the Savior, Jesus Christ, and on Palm Sunday the multitude of people sang "Blessed be the King that cometh in the Name of the Lord." Luke 19:38

At the Last Supper in an upper room, Jesus and the disciples sang a hymn, Matthew 26:30. It was a time of fulfillment of the prophecy of the coming Messiah. Their hearts overflowed with joy and happiness as they sang the hymn, little knowing the agony of the coming hours would bring sorrow instead of joy when the Savior of world was crucified before their eyes, then buried!

But the song broke out again with the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Messiah, from the dead, and from then on the song could not be stopped! Paul and Silas sang in prison, as did the martyrs and countless thousands since in joy or in trial, around the world! They set the tone for a singing Church!

But it was not by any means the beginning of praise. Centuries before, the Israelites praised God. We have Moses and Miriam with their singing and musical instruments, later the collection of the Psalms of David, which were sung by the people as they went up to worship in Jerusalem, and again set to music by the early Church.

There were no organs in the early life of the Church in the newly settled Canada, and the congregations did not have song books. A Precentor was appointed to lead the singing. He needed to have a musical ear and a strong voice! He would have a "pitch pipe", and would stand in front of the pulpit facing the people. He would give the pitch, or key, for the hymn or psalm, then sing the melody and words of the first line. Then the worshippers repeated the line after him. He would then sing the second line, and the people would respond, and so on until the psalm was completed.

The first reference to a Precentor at Durham church that we have on record is of Maxwell McLeod of Rockfield, (great-grandfather of Allan MacLeod who typed this book), who was Precentor for a number of years. The pitch pipe he used has been in the possession of his descendants in Rockfield for many years.

There is no record of who succeeded Maxwell McLeod, but on September 6,

1898, Mr. William McDonald, who was leading the singing at this time, intimated his voice was growing weaker and he felt he needed some support, so at this time discussions began on the merits of purchasing an organ for the church. This led to a motion being put forth and a vote taken, which supported the motion to purchase an organ.

A committee was then appointed to devise ways and means necessary to buy an organ. In an 1899 meeting the committee reported they had raised \$132.00 and had purchased an organ. This would have been a reed organ, operated by the player of the instrument pumping the pedals to provide air to operate the organ, so it was known as a pump organ.

At what point congregational singing moved to a choir leading in singing raises a question for which we have no definite answer.

The "Harmonican" published in 1838 in Pictou possibly was the first published book of words and music used here, as a copy of this book was in possession of Maxwell McLeod, when he used his pitch pipe.

Then the "Old Choir" book published in 1871 was written for four part singing, with four separate lines of notes. At this time people were wanting to sing in harmony, so singing schools were organized and music teachers taught the reading of notes for four part harmony. This led to choirs leading the singing of the Psalms. I'm quite certain the Old Choir book was the music book of my parents, as they also attended singing classes and learned the reading of notes.

In our church at Durham in 1903 a resolution from the Session was presented "that the congregation stand at time of singing."

Then the style of music began to change. Isaac Watts and the Wesleys began writing some of our early hymns, such as "Jesus shall reign..." and "O God, our help in ages past", etc. Then Ira D. Sankey and Fanny Crosby and others wrote a lot of gospel hymns that became well loved and popular.

I would assume from the fly leaf of an old "Book of Praise" that the first hymn book of its kind was published in 1880. A revision "The Presbyterian Book of Praise" was printed in 1897, with another being done in 1918 called the "Book of Praise" and our present blue-cover edition "The Book of Praise" being revised in 1972.

In 1909 at the Annual Congregational Meeting a motion was put before the meeting "that the Book of Praise be used in worship service."

In 1942 the Pictou Presbytery had a book of the old psalm tunes printed called "Old Choir Tunes" and it was very popular, particularly at special church services.

As these hymn books of the church became more widely used, with the choir leading the singing, the congregation also had books available for their use.

At that time it was the custom for the choir to render an anthem following the taking of the offering. No way would the offering be taken while singing, as the anthem was part of the worship service, and was to be listened to with reverence and without disturbance.

Who was the first organist who presided at the new organ of 1899? Mrs. William A. Sutherland of Lyons Brook was the first organist I can recall, but I have no date when she began to play or when she retired.

John Cox of Springside was choir leader for a while. Then during the ministry of Rev. J. A. MacKenzie, Gerald Rogers, his nephew, played the organ for a time.

Mrs. John A. Brown was organist for many years, and Mr. H. E. Grice was choir leader for quite a number of years. Mrs. Brown received a vote of thanks many times. On January 1928 a vote of thanks was tendered Mrs. Brown and Mr. Grice at the Annual Congregational Meeting.

At a Session meeting in 1930 moderated by Dr. Baird a vote of thanks was presented to Mrs. Brown for acting so many years as organist.

On September 3, 1937, at a Session meeting Mrs. Bessie Brown, organist, expressed her desire to retire as organist. After discussion it was decided that, if possible, to retain her services for some time yet, and appoint Mrs. Alice Grice as assistant, and to encourage young people to take music lessons.

Mrs. Alice Grice apparently carried on from that time, 1937, until 1983, her date of retirement, a period of about 46 years.

Mrs. Norma Wood was appointed organist, effective January 1st, 1984, and has continued as our organist to the present.

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Appendix II

Memorial Gifts

The following list of Memorial Gifts given to the church are not in any special order, by date or otherwise. But the gifts have been special, in meaning, and as remembrances of those who served the Church of Jesus Christ faithfully in one way or another. We want to honor them again here. I trust we have not missed too many.

125 Psalm books and the table in the church vestibule In memory of Mr. and Mrs. C. MacCallum By their family--1965

Stacked Communion Service dedicated as a Memorial Gift by Mrs. Vesta Kennedy and family of the late Fulton MacKean April 6, 1969

Communion Trays
dedicated in memory of the late
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Fraser

Communion Cabinet From the Memorial Fund--1968

Communion Linen
dedicated in memory of the late James MacDonald
February 4, 1979

> Choir Chairs in Memory of Alice Grice, Organist, By Choir Fund donations.

Choir Chairs
presented to the Glory of God by donations
to Choir and Memorial Funds.

Relic of the old West River Church Bell, built 1813, burned January 22, 1883, presented by Walter Cock.

Six Communion Chairs
were presented and dedicated in memory of
Mrs. Clifford MacLellan, by the family,
July 29, 1973.

Tower Lights

Mrs. Hannah (Graham) Lufkin presented and dedicated a gift of tower lights for the church, dedicated in memory of Albert Graham and his parents Mr. and Mrs. James Graham and family--1973.

Picture of the Log Church in memory of Frederick Pauley, D.D., 1962-1975. Presented by Ross Smith and family Joan and Sean Ashley.

Communion Servers
In loving memory of Fulton MacKean,
presented by the family—1969.

Communion Plate
In memory of Mother, Mrs. G. R. Smith
placed by Blanchard and Vivian and family--June, 1967.

2 large high back Pulpit Chairs In memory of Mrs. Ellen B. Graham presented by her family-1941.

Hymn Boards
In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Cameron
of Loch Broom
by Mr. and Mrs. Percy Mulholland

Collection Plate
In memory of Hubert E. Grice, Choir Leader,
presented by his wife.

Picture of The Last Supper
To the Glory of God and in loving memory of
Mr. and Mrs. George William MacLean,worked and donated
by their daughter Helen Proudfoot, December 27, 1964.

This pulpit

is presented by Catherine MacKenzie in loving memory of her husband David E. MacKenzie, died November 24, 1937, and her son Warren E. MacKenzie, who died as a prisoner of war, April 19, 1945.

These Pews

presented in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. John A. MacLean, and Robert Stewart, brother of Mrs. MacLean, donated by foster daughter Rachel Dearborn.

Flowers were placed in the church in memory of Mrs. David Clark by members of her family and in memory of Mr. and Mrs. N. N. Hamblen by their daughter Muriel Boutilier.

Books

presented in memory of her parents and brother Elmer by Mrs. Forbes MacLean

Books

presented in memory of their mother, Mrs. Rettie MacIntosh, by Peggy and Laurina

> Nursery Table and Chairs presented by Rettie MacIntosh

Chandelier

Dedication of the Canadian and Nova Scotia flags, November 7, 1993.

May 15, 1994, a Cross
was presented and dedicated by Mrs. Shirley Bent, Little Harbour,
in memory of William Scott and Ellen (Dunn) MacKean
and their family,
Cyril, Gladys, Fulton, George and Edna.

> In memory of David Elmer Patterson, presented by wife Helen and family.

In memory of Bessie Brown by a friend.

In memory of Rena MacIntosh by the family

Presented by Doris Roberts in memory of parents, Mr. and Mrs. Duncan MacKean.

Presented by Johnnie and Edith Fraser in memory of their parents.

In memory of Stella Cameron presented by the family.

> Presented to Durham Church by the Memorial Fund.

Presented in memory of Reginald Anderson by the family.

In memory of Mrs. Dearborn by Mrs. Carmichael.

In memory of John H. Fraser, 1969

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January 6, 1974 an Organist Copy of the Book of Praise in memory of Johnson Wilson given by Mr. and Mrs. Fred Poole, Upper La Have, and Mr. and Mrs. Don Purdy, Westphale, N.S.

Bibles.

Bible presented in memory of Miss Hilda Thomson, by the estate of Miss Hilda Thomson.

A picture of the late Rev. Dr. Donald C. McDonald presented by his brother Henry on behalf of the family.

David Lavers accepted the picture on behalf of the congregation.

The picture hangs beside the windows dedicated in memory of his brother James McDonald

Appendix III

Paccount Paccount		4.0	200.00 200.00 87.50	662.00	20.00	7.00	20.00	\$1,220.50		201.75	65.24	40.25	26.39	142.00	71.50	30.72	72.50
St. s	Expenditures	Rev. T. Stewart (Agent)	Scotia Frinters Rev. T. Stewart Resene Home	:-	Aberdeen Hospital	Deaf and Dumb			AMOUNTS COLLECTED BY SOCIETIE	W. M. S. (Green Hill)	Y. P. S. (Durham)	Mission Band (Durham)	Sunday, School, West River	W. M. S. (Rogers Hill)	Sunday School (Rogers Hill)	Mission Band (Loch Broom)	Sunday School (Cross Roads)
St. s		00 00	(4.50	75.39	31.45	28.00 18.00 18.50	50.00	75.00	39.93	28.90	2.00	11.34	19.90	15.39			16.00
Bee Durham Section Green Hill Section Expen Beficit 1918 Stipend, 10 months Supply during vacanoy Supply during vacanoy Supply during vacation Boarding and driving Moderator Jamitor (Green Hill) Jamitor (Green Hill) Jamitor, Choir Gauling Coal Furnace Supplies Crockett Bros. T. A. Stalker T. A. McKay T. A. McKay John Hillier Insurance and Taxes Jash in Bank SCHEMES AND SCHEMES AND		5	80				. 28 2			* *				95	200		

	146.00 658.95 415.55	1,220,50
SCHEMES AND BENEVOLENCES Receipts	Cash on hand Jan. 1st	66-

\$1,289.83

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