

REFLECTIONS

OF

Walkerton's Past

BY

The Cordwainer

The Church That Became A Factory

The Church of England worshippers (now Anglican) were probably the first settlers here to establish a regular worship service. The first services were held in Joseph Walker's Tavern.

In 1858, Thomas Todd gave them land on which to erect a church. This was on Willoughby's hill (close to where the water tower is now). There was already an Anglican Cemetery on the hill and a church was soon built nearby. Unfortunately, the foundation was found to be defective, so the church was never used.

About 1864, a red brick church was built at the corner of Scott and Peter Streets. Joseph Walker, who was trying to centralize the town, donated land. For such an early

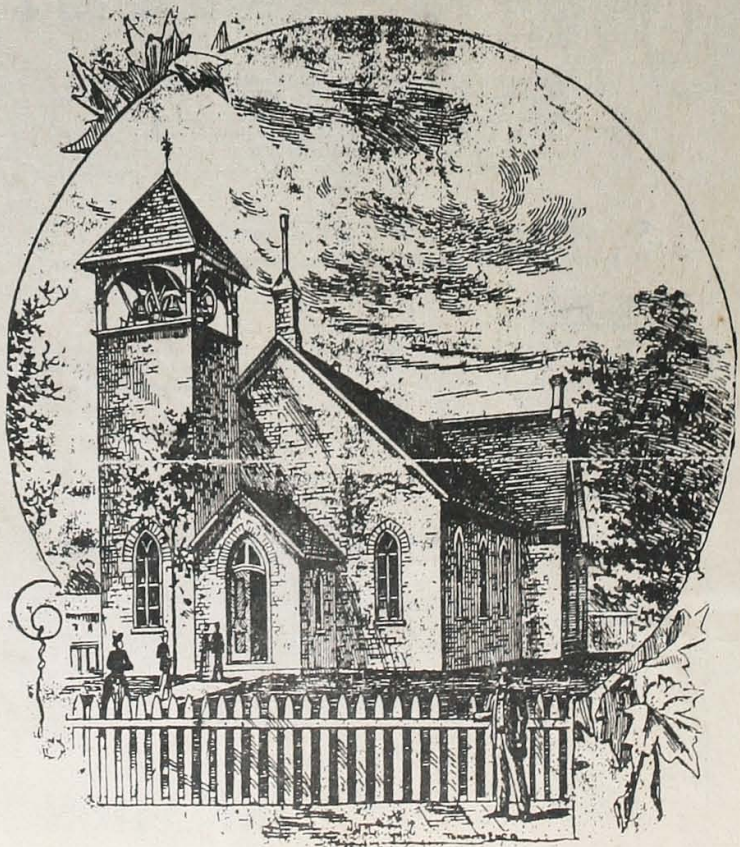
date, the church was large, and became even larger when an addition was added later.

In 1909 a new rector, Rev. Perdue came. He was so enthused about building a new church that by 1911 he had raised enough funds to proceed; and the present beautiful church was erected on the corner of Colborne and Jane Streets. The old church was vacated. For a few years the empty church was used by a saddlemaker.

Then, in 1919 the empty church found a use, — Carl C. Larsen Sr. and Frank Clark from Woodstock wanted to establish a metal stamping industry, and found the empty church a good place to start. A short time later Farquhar



Larsen & Shaw, Furniture Hardware Factory, Walkerton in 1939. The old Anglican Church can plainly be seen engulfed by the Factory.



Old St. Thomas' Church, Walkerton, Ont.
Picture, courtesy of Andy McTavish.