

The first public religious service is said to have been held in '55, and was conducted by the Rev. A. Bradshaw, a Methodist Episcopal Minister from Kincardine. In September of the same year, the Rev. John B. Mowat conducted the first Presbyterian service; it was held in Gibson's shanty. The shanty was situated a little west of the present Public School.

In '56, Teeswater could boast of a shoe-maker, a man named Spence, who had opened a shop south of Hadwen's store, on the site of the house now occupied by Charles Symon. Across the road from the store Thomas Fairbairn had built a shanty, and there he did writing and conveyancing. A little further to the north and on the west side of the road, Rev. Thomas Hadwen, a Methodist minister,

had a house built on the site of Mrs. Craik's home and was the first minister settled here. An event of great importance in that year was the holding of the first meeting of the Culross Council, on January 21. The members of the Board were: P. B. Brown, Reeve; William McKague, Thomas Maloney, John Gilroy and Alex Ross. Some say the meeting was held in Brown's shanty; others, in Fairbairn's. Robert Watson was appointed Clerk and Treasurer. He was succeeded by John Logan, and then by Thomas Fairbairn, as Clerk, he retaining the office of Treasurer.

Ira Fulford had a house on the site of A. Rome's. Here George McKibbon opened another store. He subsequently built one on Ann street, which was known as the "Montreal House". The building was turned into a house and occupied for years by the late Rev. P. Currie. It is now John Armstrong's home. Where Dr. Gillies' lawn now is, Alf. Irving built a tavern which was known as the "Traveller's Rest". In the north side was a window, and it was here that the voters of Culross came to poll their votes when the first election was held in Culross. The Clerk sat in what was the bar room and recorded the votes. It was an open voting at that time.

John McCue followed Irving as tavern keeper, and after him came William Clark. The latter, before coming to Teeswater, had a tannery at Moscow. He ran the tavern for some years and then built a frame hotel that used to stand where the Vendome now is. It was burned in 1897.

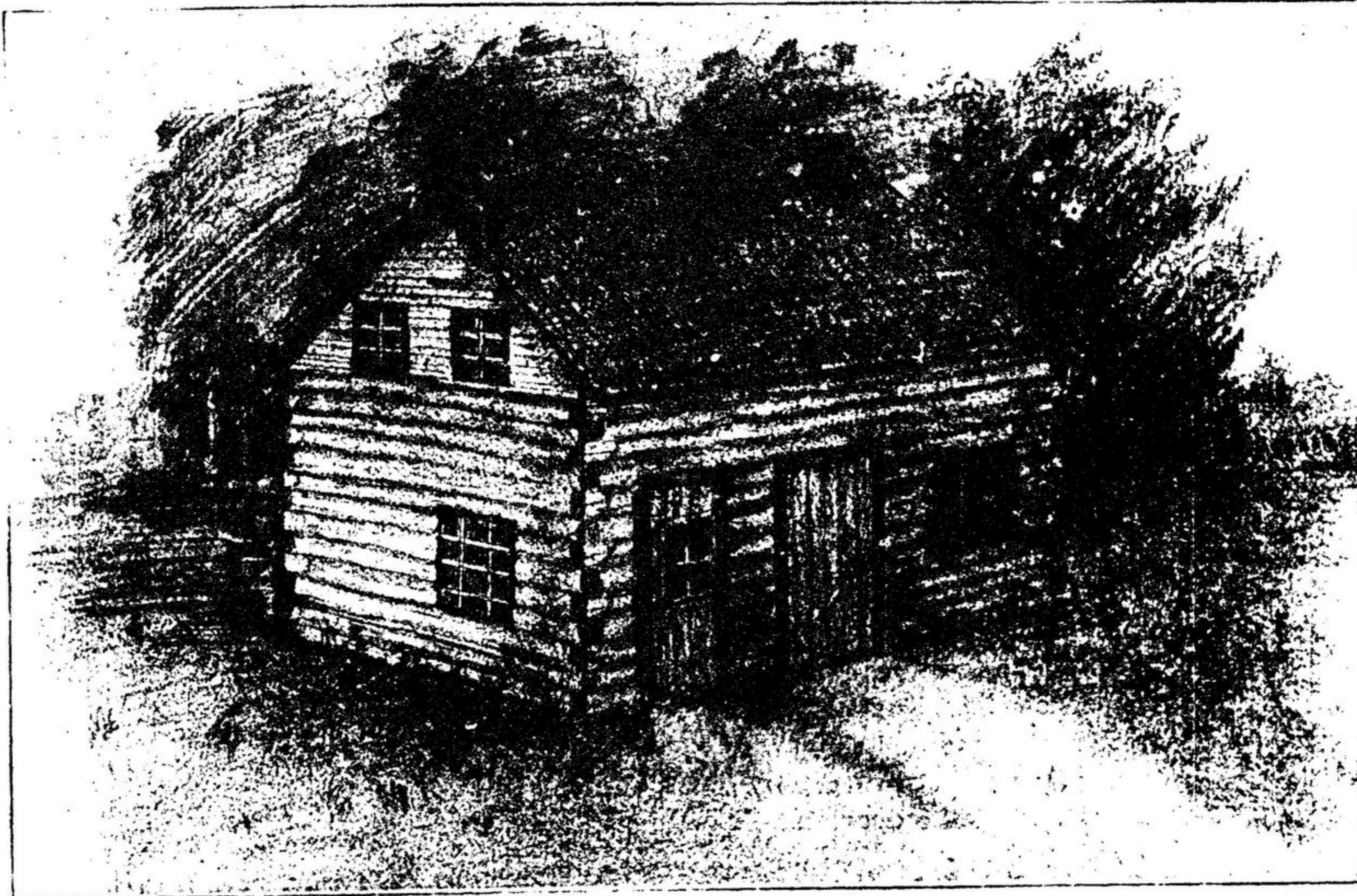
Archie McKenzie opened another tavern across the road in the building now occupied by R. E. McCallum. Needless

to say, the building has been very much re-modelled since then. A man by the name of Crapper, who was a shoe-maker, built a shop just at the north end of the railing on the east side of the road. Sam Woods, an old pioneer, lived there for some time after leaving his farm, which he had unfortunately lost.

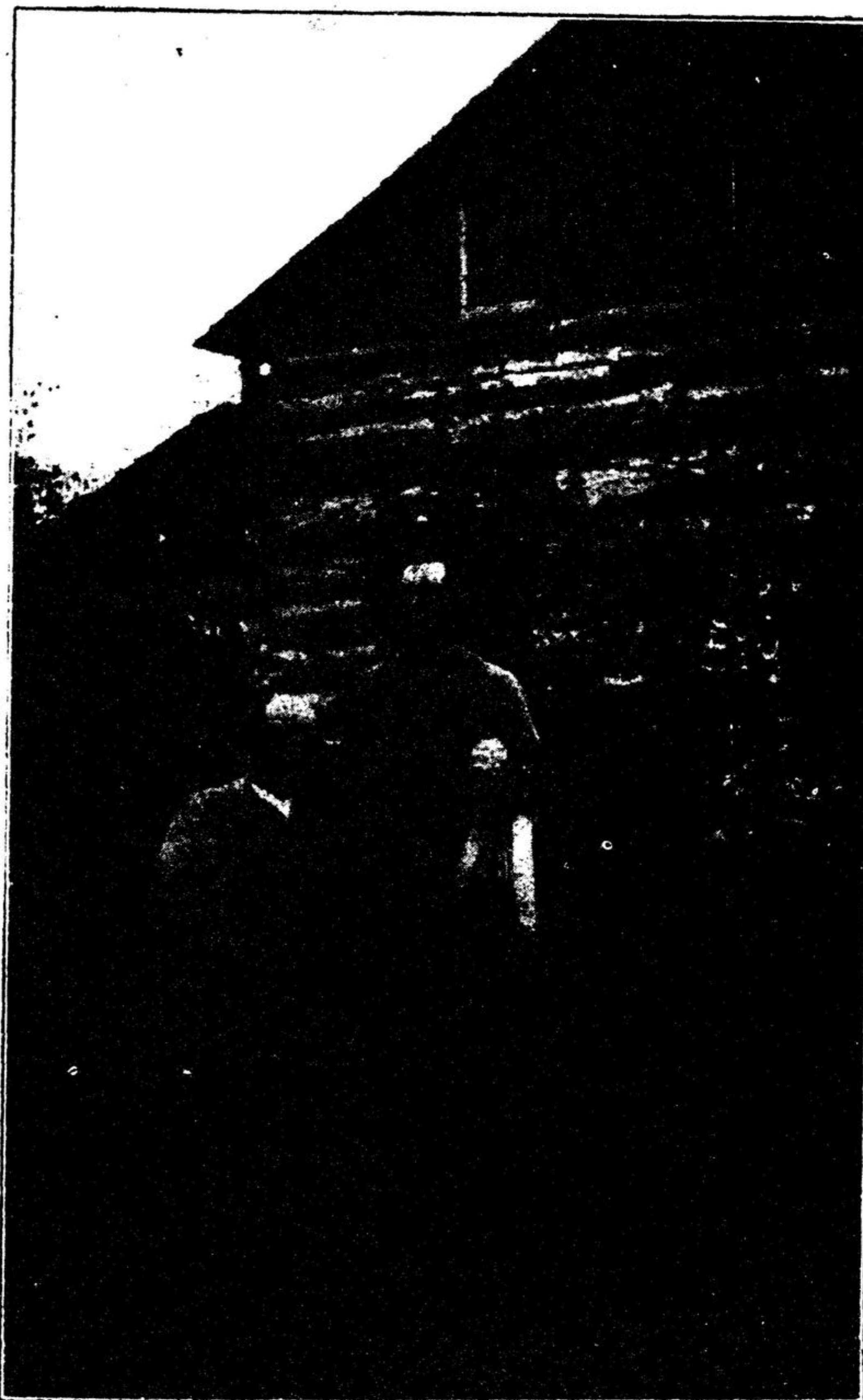
The first School House was a log building situated on the north side of Elora street opposite the present school grounds. The school was opened in 1858 and was in charge of Peter Clark, who had the distinction of being our first teacher. David Fairbairn, Sr., came in about this time and built the white house near the dam, now occupied by Alex. McKenzie. Fairbairn was a joiner and made such furniture as the settlers needed at that time.

Preaching was held occasionally. The Reverends Walter Inglis, John Ross, Donald McLean and John McMillan, all visited here prior to 1857, and held services for the Presbyterians. In 1857, the first communion service was observed by the Presbyterian church. The services were held at James Reid's. Mr. Young preached in English at the house. His text was: "O earth, earth, earth, hear ye the word of the Lord!" Mr. Sutherland preached in Gaelic at the barn. His text was; "Behold I stand at the door and knock!"

In the latter part of '57, Rev. J. McKay was sent in, and he was followed by Rev. A. McKay. It was while the latter was here that the Presbyterian Church was organized; that was in 1859. A movement was set on foot to build a church, but it was not completed until 1862, when the Reverend Adam McKay received the first call. Presbyterianism has



Alf. Irving's tavern "The Traveller's Rest", built in 1856. It was at the lower window in the end, the first poll in Culross was held.



Mr. and Mrs. Alex. Gibson, and son James. Mr. Gibson was Teeswater's first Reeve.