

St.  
Thomas'  
Church  
WOODLAWN



THE OLD

Form of Service

FOR THE

Opening and Consecration

OF THE NEW ST. THOMAS' CHURCH, WOODLAWN

By the Right Reverend John Charles Roper, D.D.

BISHOP OF OTTAWA

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14th, 1915

IN THE BEGINNING . . .

On Jan. 12, 1872, St. Thomas was given "one quarter acre more or less" of land on the farm of James and Susan Abbott. (This land was never used by the Church, perhaps because of the location which was between Woodlawn and Dunrobin.)

The present site, (Woodlawn corner) was transferred to St. Thomas' Jan. 18, 1876, by John Hedley and his wife. A document was forwarded to the Rt. Rev. John Travers Lewis requesting him to consecrate St. Thomas' Church and cemetery both being free of debt. Names attached to this document were:

- |                    |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|
| John W. Weatherdon | William Wilson   |
| W.J. Humphries     | John Hedley      |
| Thomas I. Vance    | Thomas Wetherley |
| Thomas Vance Sr.   |                  |

On the 20th day of December, 1882, Bishop Lewis consecrated the first "St. Thomas", the small frame church many still remember with deep affection.

(It is interesting to note that it was six years from when the request was made to the Bishop, before the Bishop finally came. This was because of the difficulty of transportation, no doubt, and the visit from the Bishop would be a wonderful occasion because of the infrequency of the event.)

These are memories written by Mrs. Henry Porteous, (Evelyn Major) of Ottawa. She sent them to Mrs. Sam Wilson when we were looking for material for the history of St. Thomas' in 1965.

The first clergyman of our church that I know of was Mr. Merrit. He married my Father and Mother in 1871 at Fitzroy Harbour and he started gathering money to build the old church. About 8 years after we moved to Torbolton to live and our next Rector I knew of was Mr. Weatherdon. I remember, he Baptised your Father in the home because he was sick. Aunt Lizzie Vance was with him. (The baby was Victor Major)

Then when I got old enough to go to Church, Mr. J.F. Snowden was Rector. It was under him I was confirmed in 1890.

The people and families who were real church workers were: the Hedleys, the Wilsons, the Vances, Dolans, Delahunts, Browns, Majors too, and many others.

Mr. Snowden was followed by Mr. Pick, then Mr. Osborne, then Mr. Johnston who really got us working for the present church.

About that time, the Davis family came to live there, first Isaac, before he was married. <sup>(1902)</sup> They were a good boost to our work. Mrs. Davis played organ and practised for our concerts which we put on occasionally. We usually held a picnic at the old Sand Hills now Constance Bay. We really had a good time at our picnics. I think we had one nearly every summer.

The Congregation catered and there was always plenty of food, also a platform for dancing. I do not remember many outstanding events except I do remember the boys getting into a lady's basket. It was always a basket in those days, we had no cardboard cartons there. The boys got into a large cake (fruit cake) which some lady planned to take home with her, but the boys divided it in chunks and each one was running around with a large handful. She did not have much left.

Mr. Johnston went to North Gower about 1907. Mr. Iveson came, and they were all ready with the new church. . . . .



Mrs. Henry Porteous who wrote these memories.