St. Mary's Church at Maxwell Is 70 Years Old

History of the Maxwell Anglican Church and Congregation Interestingly Written by Miss Viva B. Scilley — First Services Held in the Woods — Names of Early Members of Congregation and Various pastors From 1863 to 1833

As the traveller journeys down the Collingwood Gravel, east from Flesherton, the first indication he has of approaching Maxwell village is the ancient white building, on the hill, St. Mary's Anglican church.

The church was a necessary part of the pioneers' lives, as necessary as their dwelling houses, and so the establishment of these first churches was such a natural event that no records of proceedings were ever considered. For this reason it is impossible to give an accurate account of the early years of the church, but the following, gleanings from the memories of the few remaining "settlers," are submitted with apologies for any errors or omissions.

In 1832 the first services were held, not in a building, but in the woods, behind where the Orange Hall now stands. The rector was Rev. Mr. Johnston, and of the congregation the names of Beatty, Brunkard, Burke, Clarke, Conn, Linley, Madill, Maxwell, McMaster, Scilley and Stewart are recalled.

No time was lost by these people for in May, 1863 they worshipped God in their new consecrated building "St. Marys."

The land for the church was donated by the late Joseph Maxwell, after whom the village was named. The foundation timbers were taken from the swamp on the land of the late Jas. Clarke. (We can picture the "logging bees" and "framing bees" of the year 1862). The timbers for the church were drawn from Collingwood.

REV. MAURICE F. OLDHAM
who is the present rector of St. Mary's Church, and in charge of the Dundalk parish since December, 1928.

As far as we know Jas. Clarke of Collingwood, Mrs. Jno. Beatty (Martha Stewart) of Maxwell and David Scilley of Dundalk, Mrs. John Arnott of Hatherton are the only surviving members of the group baptised by Rev. Johnston in the new church.

Following Rev. Mr. Johnston the rectors were Rev. Mr. Hill and Rev. J. J. Morton, but the dates of their ministry are unknown.

In 1877 the church was in charge of students.

In 1878, Rev. Jas. Ward became the rector. His name stands out in the history of the church and has been an inspiration to both rectors and congregations since.

More settlers had arrived in Osprey by this time and the names of Arnott, Cooper, Grummett, Hamlin, Hargrave, Hicks, Hanley, Lawlor, Little, Myles, Neal Penny, Ring, Ross, Schilneman and Talbot were added to the church.

Rev. Ward, who was in charge of Markdale, Eugenia and Maxwell churches visited all these people and also held regular mid-week prayer services on the Third Line of Osprey in the home of David Brunkard, Wm. Arnott, Wm. Stewart. Under his guidance the church was remodelled and improved. The chancel, a new vestry, the porch and belfry were added to the first building. The chancel furniture and new seats were made and dedicated. An organ was installed and Miss Mary Burke presided as first organist. Over the chancel he placed the motto which [illegible] of God and The Gate to Heaven."

A bell in 1885 was placed in the belfry which called and still calls people to worship in the "House of God." The numerous monuments surrounding the church tell of the many times it has tolled as one by one the worthy builders were laid to rest.

The belfry was blown down in recent years but the bell was unharmed and the present pointed spire replaced the old square one of Rev. Ward's time.

Rev. Ward's father, who lived in England sent the silver communion service as a gift to the new church. Rev. Ward is still living and two years ago preached the anniversary sermon in St. Mary's Church on June 14.

In 1887 the rector was Rev. O. Edgelow. About this time St. Mary's was transferred from Markdale to Dundalk Parish.

In 1890 Rev. A. Corbett was rector. In 1892 the house in which Mr. Chas Brodie now lives was purchased for a rectory and Rev. J. W. Jones lived there. He was assisted in his work by Tommy Hicks as Lay Leader. This Osprey boy is now the rector of Wiarton and conducted the anniversary services last year in St. Mary's Church on June 12th.

Following rectors were: 1895, Rev. J. A. Miller, 1896, Rev. J. C. Ferrier, 1897, Rev. H. J. Condell, 1889—1901, Rev. Jeffry Hill, 1901—1904, Rev. C. L. Mills, 1905, Rev. G. M. Franklin, 1907, Rev. F. Ryan, 1908, Rev. H. Miller, 1910, Rev. N. Williams, 1914, Rev. C. L. Abbott, 1916—1924, Rev. W. G. Blackwell.

At this time a change was made in the church, St. Paul's Church Melancthon was built and the families on the Centre Line and South Line of Osprey were transferred from St. Mary's to St. Paul's.

For a time St. Mary's was added to Flesherton and Rev. Mr. Vrooman was in charge. It was found impossible to establish and maintain this new Parish and St. Mary's was again added to Dundalk Parish but reduced to a service every second Sunday.

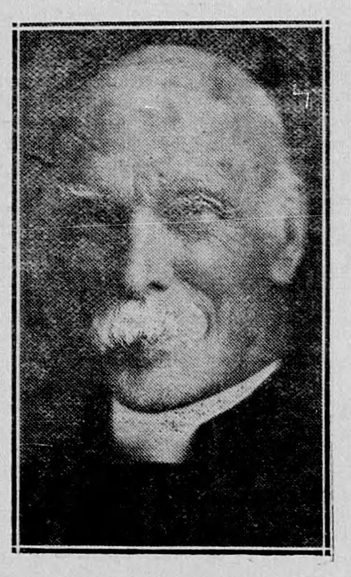
Pioneer work again began in St. Mary's Church. Instead of the obstacles of roads, methods of travelling, etc., which confronted the early pioneers, Rev. J. H. Pogson, who came in 1924 faced the difficulty of building a congregation from a people who did not feel the need of the church as their forefathers did; of opposition from sects which disregard the rites of the church and the need of a consecrated place of worship; and in opposition to the lure of the beach and other places of Sunday amusement.

Rev. Pogson gathered the names of Original Anglicans and established a "Sunday School by post," distributing church literature and Sunday school lessons to a wide circle of people, and thus laying the foundation for the present rector Rev. M. F. Oldham who succeeded him in 1928.

Rev. Maurice F. Oldham, a Chatsworth boy, knows the meaning of many words but certainly not the word "idleness." He is an untiring laborer and has a Sunday School of 36 members at St. Mary's. From June 1921 till August 1922 he conducted a mid-week Bible class and divine service for a time at Hatherton school house on the 3rd Line. This was discontinued in the spring of 1933. He has a congregation of fifty-four families and four individuals at Maxwell. The church has been completely redecorated. A new organ has been purchased and for this summer, the seventieth anniversary year instead of every second Sunday, the old bell rings each Sunday up to Sept. 10th to call worshippers to St. Mary's Church.

REV. W. S. BLACKWELL
who is one of the outstanding rectors of the parish, stationed there from 1916 to 1922 and who vassed away a number of years ago.

The present officers of the church are: minister's warden, Mr. Reg. Londry; people's warden, Mr. Frank Seeley; vestry clerk, Mrs. George Lawlor; select vestry, Messrs. John Hargrave, John Humphrey and Jessie Grummett; Synod delegates, Messrs. John Hargrave and John Humphrey; organist, Mrs. Robt. Priestley, jun., caretaker, Mr. Jesse Grummett; auditors, Mr. R. Priestley, jun., Mrs. F. Seeley.



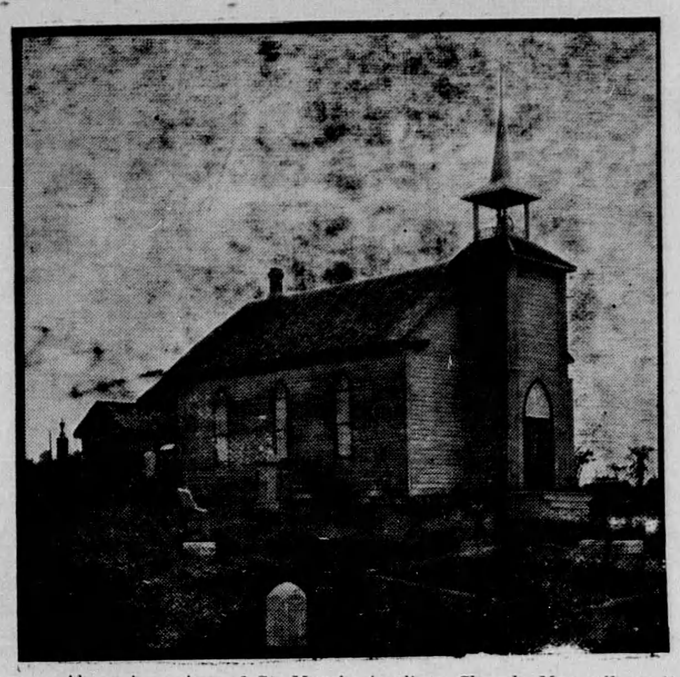
REV. JAMES WARD
who was rector of Maxwell church from 1878 to 1885 and was instrumental in furnishing St. Mary's church. He is in his 90th year and resides at present in Toronto.

Sunday School — superintendent, Mr. John Humphrey; secretary-treasurer, Miss Marjorie Seeley; teachers, Rev. M. F. Oldham, Mrs. F. Seeley, Mrs. W. Seeley.

Women's Guild: president, Mrs. George Lawlor; vice president, Mrs. Martha Beatty; secretary, Mrs. Robt. Priestly, jun.; assistant, Miss Marjorie Seeley; treasurer, Mrs. George Burke; organist, Mrs. Frank Seeley, Mrs. R. Priestley.

The main anniversary services were held on Sunday, July 23rd, at 8.30 a.m. when holy communion was held and morning prayer at 11 a.m. and evening prayer at 7.30. The special preacher for the occasion was Rev. R. J. Murphy, former rector of Tara parish and rural dean of Bruce Deanery. Mr. Murphy is a brother-in-law of Rev. Gus Ward. He preached two splendid and instructive sermons on that occasion. Special music was rendered by the choir under the leadership of Mrs. Frank Seeley. St. Mary's church is the only Anglican church in the whole township of Osprey and its influence on the community and district in the past 70 years has been great. It is the mother Anglican church of the district. The church looks earnestly forward to the future and the great witness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

St. Mary's Anglican Church, Maxwell



Above is a view of St. Mary's Anglican Church, Maxwell, as it appears at the present time from the county highway, which passes its door. The church was erected 70 years ago in 1863.

Interior of St. Mary's Church, Maxwell

Above is a picture of the interior of St. Mary's Churchas it appears at present. The entire interior was recently redecorated and the church presents a splendid appearance from the inside.

FAWN FOUND KILLED

A beautifully spotted fawn was found dead a mile north of Dundalk at the side of Highway No. 10. It had one leg broken, indicating that it might have been struck by a car, although those who saw the carcass claim that there were bullet wounds in the hindquarters.

Thos Irwin Dies At Home Near Ceylon

Thomas Irwin, a resident of the Stone's Line, Artemesia, for the past thirty years passed away at his home on Lot 4, Concession 5, on Friday of last week at the age of 69 years, after an illness extending over a period of several months. He was born on the East Backline, Artemesia, and was a son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Irwin, pioneers of the township. He was one of a family of six boys and two girls, four of whom are now living: Christopher, John and Carter of Artemesia and Herbert of Markdale. James Alexander, Fannie (Mrs. Thos. Bradey) and Eliza Ann predeceased him.

He was married in 1891 to Miss Letitia Ann Bradey, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Bradey, who survives him, along with a family of three sons: John Thomas of Regina, Sask., Bert and Bradey at home, who mourn the loss of a devoted husband and father. He was educated at the Orange Valley school and has followed the occupation of farming all his life and for thirty years has resided on Stone's Line. He was a kind neighbor and his passing is a distinct loss to the neighborhood. He was a member of Priceville United church and a Conservative in politics.

The funeral took place on Monday afternoon and was largely attended with service at the home at two p.m., Rev. J. A. Moir, pastor of Priceville United church, officiating, interment taking place in the Markdale cemetery. Many friends from a distance attended the funeral.

The pallbearers were neighbors of the deceased: Messrs. Geo. Arrowsmith, Geo. Fisher, Russel Purdy, I. B. Whittaker, Wm. Beaton, Neil Cameron, Edgar Patterson and Geo. Campbell.

Townsman Loses Father

Mr. William Turney, manager of the Bell Telephone Co. in Flesherton, received word on Wednesday of last week of the death of his father, Edward Turney, at his residence 40 Wallace Ave., Toronto, after an extended illness. Deceased was born at Buckinghamshire, England, 74 years ago, educated at Oxford and came to this country when a young man. He settled in Scarboro township, later moving to Holland Landing where he was a florist and market gardener. He was an active member of Christ church, Holland Landing, an Orangeman and member of the Black Knights. His wife predeceased him six years ago.

He leaves to mourn two sons and seven daughters: Margaret (Mrs. A. McCabe) of Souris, Man., Edward of Brandon, Man., William of Flesherton, Edith (Mrs. M. Yantz) Souris, Man., Catherine of Hamilton, Ellen, Alice, Evelyn and Ruth of Toronto.

Among the many floral tributes was a spray from the Flesherton Bell Telephone staff and one from "D" Company, Grey Regiment. The funeral was held Friday afternoon when service was held in Christ church, Holland Landing, where interment took place.

CAMP MEETING — The Gospel Workers (D.V.) will hold their 1933, 10-day camp meeting at Clarksburg from Friday, Sept. 8, to Sunday, Sept. 17. Rev. J. R. Parker, Wilmore, Kentucky, will be the principal speaker. The famous Vaughan Radio Quartette of Lawrenceburg, Tenn., will have charge of the singing. Plan to attend.

Priceville C.G.I.T.

The C.G.I.T. group held a mother and daughter banquet on Friday evening in honor of six young girls who are leaving Priceville, namely, the Misses Jean Hincks, Sadie Carson, Elda Frook, Monica Lambert and Florence Macphail. The tables were decorated in red and white. The following toasts were given: to the C.G.I.T. group by Mrs. Sutherland; responded to by Miss Margaret McArthur: to mothers by Elda Frook; Mrs. John Nichol: to girls leaving by Jessie Nichol; Monica Lambert: to girls remaining at home by Almeda Hincks; Annie McIntyre: to waitress by Sadie Carson; Mrs. Dan Campbell. Four of the C.G.I.T. girls then served a bountiful supper, a short program following. The main feature of the program was an account by Mrs. Wm. McMillan of the Sunday school class since 1915 when the older of these girls were among its first members, and of the class branching out into C.G.I.T. work in 1930. She spoke of her pride in these girls who are leaving and of the joy in sending forth such clean, bright and upright girls and closed with three stanzas of Julia Baker's mizpah. A quartette composed of Mrs. D. Campbell, Nellie McLean, Jessie Nichol and Isobel McMillan sang the prayer "Be at Rest" as a parting wish from those at home. A short sing song and a toast to king and country was given by Miss Donelda Nichol. This brought a very enjoyable evening to a close.

A girl met an old flame and determined to high-hat him. "Sorry," she murmered when the hostess introduced him to her, "but I did not get your name."

"I know you didn't," replied the old flame, "but that is not your fault. You tried hard enough."

Display of Ladies' Fall Coats, Dresses and Hats

Wednesday, September 6th

AFTERNOON AND EVENING

Display of Wray's Ladies' Wear, Owen Sound

A wonderful choice of the newest fall novelties.

ONE DAY ONLY—REMEMBER THE DATE

School Time Again

SCHOOL TIME SHOWS UP THE NEED OF SOME ARTICLE OF NEW CLOTHING FOR ALMOST EVERY BOY. LOOK THESE ITEMS OVER —PERHAPS YOU WILL SEE SOMETHING OF INTEREST.

Boys' Shorts—all wool cloths with belt complete, size 4 to 8 years **$1.00**

Boys' Knickers—assorted wool tweeds lined throughout, 26 to 32 ..... **$1.25**

Boys' Tweed Trousers—all sizes, good range of styles **$1.50**

Boys' Cloth Caps—good new patterns, all sizes **50c**

Boys' Polo Shirts—zip fronts, green, maroon and blue, 2 8to 32 ..... **$1.19**

Boys' Tweed Suits with Bloomers — sizes to 35 ..... **$3.49**

Students' Suits, Long Trouers, good patterns, sizes to 35 ..... **$8.95**

Boys' and Youth's Oxfords.
Boys' and Youths' Boots.

Boys' and Youths' Hosiery.
Boys' and Youths' Canvas Shoes.

F. H. W. HICKLING