

THE ANGLICANS OF KAKABEKA FALLS

This manuscript is the result of a conversation I had with Mrs. Ada Elms (formerly Mrs. Ada Cardiff, nee Chadwell) of Thunder Bay who expressed to me her desire to write a history of The Church of the Messiah, Kakabeka Falls, Ontario, using the materials she had gathered, and I offered to help her.

We are grateful to the contacts we made, while researching the history of the Church, especially Janet Currie, George and Eula Bruce, Eldred and Pat Rose, Archdeacon Mark Conliffe, Fr. Michael Lawson, other clergy, the Diocesan Archives in Sault Ste. Marie, Sharon Martyn (Deputy Clerk-Treasurer of Oliver Township), Irene and Herb Sovereign, Betty Sand, Jim Edgar, Bert and Laura Sitch. Thanks also to my wife, Merle, for reading the manuscript and offering improvements.

One group of women, although not mentioned by name, yet having an extremely important place in the work alongside their husbands, was the wives of the clergymen. They also baked and sewed, attended, and supported the Church and Parish as did so many parishioners, helping the members to be a "Family of God."

Apologies are given to those whose names are not mentioned in the record. We hope that they, too, may have their secret satisfaction of having played a part in the life of this Anglican Fellowship.

Rev. Robert F. Brown,
Thunder Bay, 1991.

Mrs. Ada Elms passed from this life into the larger Fellowship of the Communion of Saints on January 6th (The Epiphany) 1992. (RFB)

cc. The Elms Family and relatives

The Archives, Diocese of Algoma, Sault Ste. Marie
The Parish of West Thunder Bay, c/o The Rectory, Rosslyn
Oliver Township Heritage Center, Kakabeka Falls
Clergy

Persons acknowledged above

Interested persons who contact the Reverend Robert F. Brown
Thunder Bay, Ontario

I want to thank the Rev. Bob Brown for writing this history of the "Anglicans of Kakabeka Falls." He has done an excellent work in putting together the photographs and histories from different people. Although people no longer worship at the Church of the Messiah, the spirit of the people is still evident as they now worship in St. James', Oliver, and other churches.

It was a pleasure to serve the people in the Messiah from 1982 until the time it formally closed in 1986. I hope when you read this booklet that you are able to feel the joy of serving the Lord, as the Anglicans did in Kakabeka Falls.

Fr. Michael Lawson
April 1992

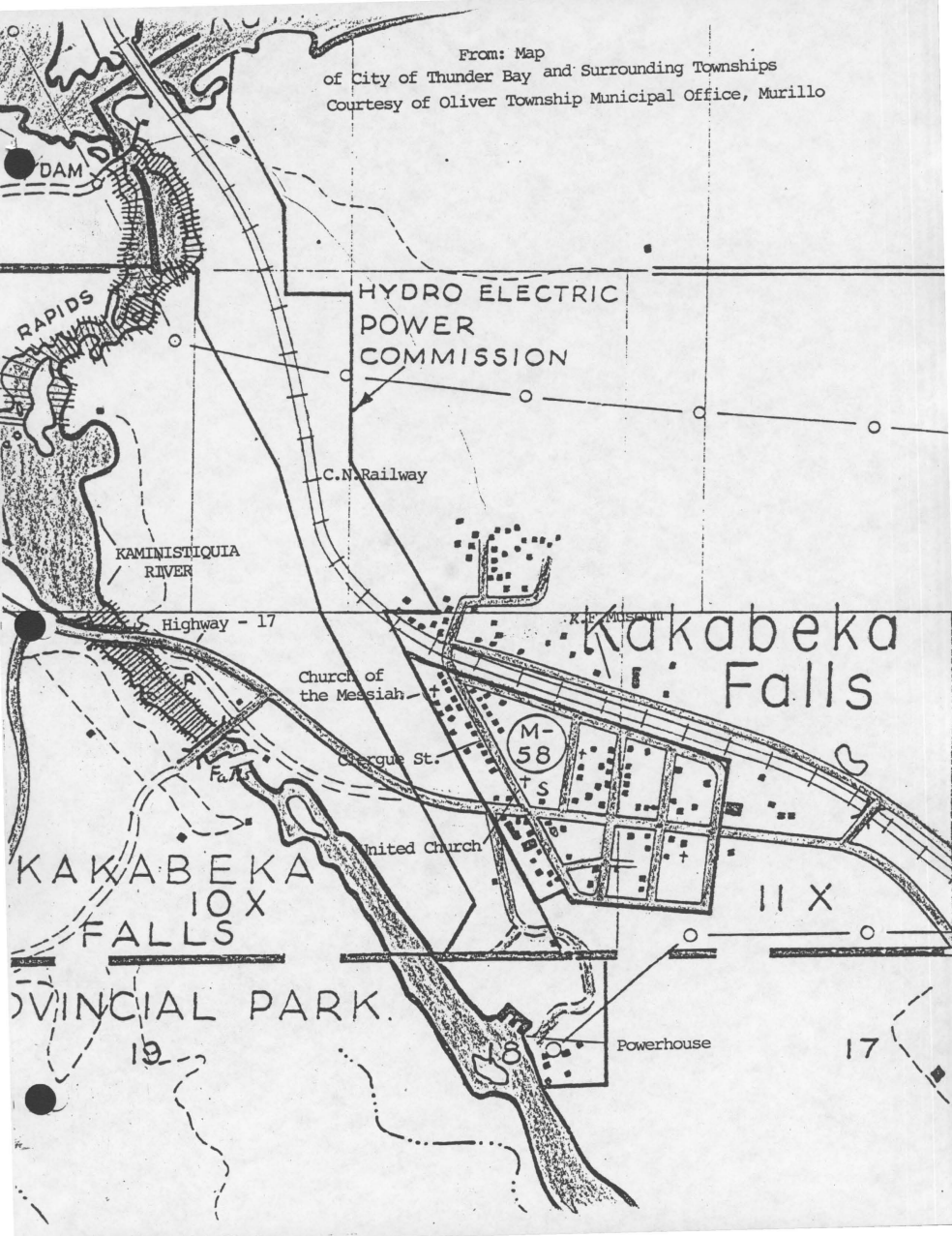


The Reverend Michael Lawson, with Bert Sitch, People's Warden, and Herb Sovereign, Rector's Warden. ALGOMA ANGLICAN — MAY 1987

Map - Courtesy of
Oliver Township Municipal Office



From: Map
of City of Thunder Bay and Surrounding Townships
Courtesy of Oliver Township Municipal Office, Murillo



DAM

RAPIDS

KAMINISTIQUEA RIVER

HYDRO ELECTRIC POWER COMMISSION

C.N. Railway

Highway - 17

Church of the Messiah

George St.

United Church

Powerhouse

KAKABEKA FALLS

Kakabeka Falls

M-58

PROVINCIAL PARK.

11 X

19

18

17



The Consecration of the Church of the Messiah, May 11, 1942
 From left to right - Harry Limer, Canon Harry Hankinson, Jim Edgar,
 Francis Belt, Bishop Kingston, Canon Stanley Yeomans, Bill White,
 Archdeacon Balfour, the Rev. Julian Smedley



The Consecration Tea, May 11, 1942, at the Arthur Chadwell home
 From left to right - Standing- Irene Pool, Mrs. Bill White, Mrs. Mounstephen,
 Mrs. Pool, Mrs. Dan White, the Rev. Julian Smedley, Bishop Kingston, Mrs. "Cis"
 Edgar, Ethel Lohrin, Mrs. Angus Muir, unknown, Jim Edgar, Louie Koczkur,
 Second row - Mrs. Harry Limer. First row - Mrs. Moira Reeves, the Rev. Mark
 Reeves of the United Church, Arthur Chadwell, Canon Stanley Yeomans,
 Mrs. Ada Chadwell, Lillian Brown.



The Church of the Messiah - 1943
(destroyed by a grass-fire, along with
the church-hall, formerly the Mission Hall
in the summer of 1953)

(picture copied from "The First Century Unfolding")



At the Service of Confirmation - Monday, June 3, 1946

From left to right: Lorraine Cardiff, the Rev. Morse Goodman,
Leona Cardiff, Bishop William Wright, Gale Ellett, Bobby Williams,
Mr. Ralph Price. The Confirmees are holding their Prayer Books,
gifts from the Woman's Auxiliary of the Church of the Messiah.



St. Luke's W.A., Fort William, visits The Church of the Messiah W.A.
at the home of Ada and Leonard Cardiff, Kakabeka Falls, 1946

From left to right: Kneeling (front row) - Mrs. Stoughton, Mrs. Lily Gosselin, Mrs. Fregeau (black hat), Mrs. Coombs (in front), Mrs. Meekren Mrs. Bonnet.

Standing (l - r) Mrs. Yeomans, Mrs. Mary Strawson, Mrs. Gillman, Mrs. Cardiff, Mrs. Dunk, Mrs. Coe, Mrs. Limer (flat hat), Mrs. Daisy Rapley, Mrs. Florence Pattison (white hat), Mrs. Gransmore, Mrs. Jean May, Mrs. Hilda Broome, Miss Irene Pool, Mrs. Lily Stark, Mrs. Serina Vint, Mrs. Hunter, Mrs. Mounstephen, Mrs. Hilda Sutton



1991 - The "Oliver Township Heritage Center"
Kakabeka Falls
(formerly - The Church of the Messiah)

THE ANGLICANS OF KAKABEKA FALLS

EARLY DAYS:

In the 1870's, settlers were beginning to make their way into what was to become the Thunder Bay District of North Western Ontario.

Steamships were bringing families up through the Great Lakes to Prince Arthur's Landing and to Fort William. In 1875, the Canadian Pacific Railway, after the sod-turning, June 1st, began laying tracks westward from the "Town Plot" at Westfort. The residents of Prince Arthur's Landing met and the process of laying a track from the Landing to Westfort was completed, financed and operated as "The Prince Arthur's Landing and Kaministiquia Railway." (1)

In 1875, the "Thunder Bay Sentinel" reported that the Dawson Route - The Thunder Bay Road - from Prince Arthur's Landing to Shebandowan Lake - a distance of 45 miles was mostly gravelled and in good condition for transporting passengers and freight. There were stopping places or "stations" along the route for the accommodation of teamsters and travellers. The Newspaper also reported that the land at some points on the road was extremely good for farming. (2)

With the area around Lake Superior opening up for settlement, the Ecclesiastical Province of "Ontario" of the Church of England in Canada at its Synod in 1871, meeting in southern Ontario, attended by clergy and lay-delegates, voted to found a new missionary diocese called "Algoma," the western boundary of which would be the height of land where the rivers began draining westward into Lake Winnipeg. The first bishop of the new diocese was the Right Reverend Frederick Fauquier (formerly Archdeacon of Brant). He was elected Bishop in September 1873. The first Anglican missionary priest at Prince Arthur's Landing was the Reverend Charles Dundas. He often had to travel through rough bush-country to visit parishioners, and minister to them in their homes if they were unable to come to St. John's Church at the Landing. In 1877, Mr. Dundas left the Lakehead to take a parish in southern Ontario. (3)

In 1878, the C.P.R. rails to the west reached the height-of-land area some 45 miles distant by 1878.

The next Anglican Incumbent at St. John's was the Rev. John McMorine. Bishop Fauquier recorded that on a pastoral visit to Prince Arthur's Landing in July 1878, he had travelled by the P.A.L. & K. and C.P.R. to the height-of-land, meeting a band of Indians, and then had returned to St. John's at the Landing. (3) The Bishop may have been one of the first passengers to take advantage of the new C.P.R. line to the height-of-land. In August of 1879, the Rev. Mr. McMorine walked from the Landing to the settlement of Murillo in Oliver Township. Formal services began there in October, two months later. (4) By the year 1882, the railroad from Westfort to Winnipeg was completed.

Settlers came into the farmland west of Fort William by still other routes. The Canadian Pacific Railway bought "The Prince Arthur's Landing and Kaministiquia" railroad and so extended its line to the Landing.

Then, the C.P.R. abandoned the P.A.L. & K. rails and put down its own rails. The C.P.R. was at that time building the line into Prince Arthur's Landing from the East, and the abandoned rails were sold to the Port Arthur Duluth and Western Railway, incorporated under the name (in 1883) of "The Thunder Bay Colonization Railway Company" to serve the mining region south-west of Fort William. In 1887, the line was renamed "The Port Arthur, Duluth and Western Railway" ("The Pee-Dee") and it ran through Stanley, Hymers, Nolalu, Silver Mountain, Whitefish Lake, to Gun Flint Lake crossing the Pigeon River, continuing into Minnesota for 6 miles. The "Port Arthur Chronicle" in a supplement of March 1904 entitled "New Ontario" stated that the P.A.D. & W. passed through "a section of country already well-located by settlers, who have made their home there coming from all parts of the United States." (5)(6)

To the west, The Great Northern Railway out of Winnipeg bought the lines that passed through Sprague, Rainy River, Fort Frances, Atikokan to Stanley Junction, and purchased the last 18 miles of the P.A.D. & W.'s railroad to the Lakehead. A silver spike was driven home in December of 1902, 200 ft. east of the present Atikokan depot, and another link from the United States and Western Canada was in place. (7)

Besides these routes, the C.P.R. had finally connected up its Toronto to Port Arthur line in January 1897. (7)

Around the turn of the Century, the roadway from Pince Arthur's Landing (incorporated in 1884 as the "Town of Port Arthur") to the settlement of Murillo, was extended as far as Kakabeka Falls. By 1900, Church Services were being held at Stanley and in Slate River. (8)

So by ship, rail and road, settlers were making their way into the western townships. Under the Dominion Land Act of 1872 ("The Free Land Homestead Act") a settler could receive 160 acres of land free, by paying a registration fee of \$10.00. If he resided on "his land," and worked it, after three years he could call it his own. (9)

Under the heading of "Agricultural Settlement," the "Daily Times Journal" of December 20th 1902, in an article - "How Business of the District Grows," stated:

Tracts of fine farming land are constantly being discovered and opened up for settlement, and scores of settlers are going out onto the land...A goodly number of these homesteaders is from the States... West of Fort William, agriculture is expanding every year. (10)

In the "Journal" of the following year, announcements were made periodically of the sale of land to the heads of households, who chose to settle in the western townships. Some of the homesteaders appear not to have had a team of horses for ploughing that Spring, and the Journal reported that those who had teams had many opportunities to keep busy - "horse-flesh is not yet equal to the demand." (11)

It is estimated that if you came with \$500 you could purchase: a yoke of oxen, a cow, a wagon, a plough, harrow, cookstove, simple furniture, and a year's provisions - for a family. Many a homesteader must have walked or hitched a ride from town with only an axe, a rifle, a tent and 90 pounds of food, plus the hope of finding a friendly and helpful neighbour.(12)

In a booklet "New Ontario," Fred Chadwell arriving from England in the Kakabeka Falls' area in September 1907, gave a word-picture of what it was like to begin homesteading. He wrote:

When I went on to my homestead there were no roads, not even a trail to it. I had to pack everything in on my back. However, as soon as I settled down, my chum and I set to work and cut a road through heavy bush two miles long, so as to be able to get a team in, and also to reach the village of Kakabeka Falls, four miles away. As I was not a rich man, my stock of ready money soon diminished, and I had to go out and work awhile; then I returned and started clearing... (13)

Anglicans who homesteaded or settled in the village of Kakabeka by 1910 were:

The Cooks: Henry and Jane Cook. They arrived from England at Prince Arthur's Landing in 1873, and homesteaded in Oliver Township in 1882. Frank was the first boy born in Oliver Township, then Mary Ann (Todd), Jack, and George.

The Pools: Arriving in 1900 from England, they settled in O'Connor Township. Irene Pool, their daughter, remembered not attending a formal school, but being taught along with another girl, Ruth Sandberg, by her (Irene's) mother at home. Irene was 7 years old when they arrived.

The Mounstephens: John, Harriet, and son Jack arrived from England in 1906. They settled in the Village and built a store which included the Village Post Office - the first in Kakabeka Falls.

The Arthur Chadwells: Mrs. Ada Chadwell was the Anglican member. She arrived from Manchester, England in 1909, with the first three of their children - Arthur, Grace (later Mrs. Bert Lundstrom), Elsie (later Mrs. A. Hamre), to join her husband, Arthur, who had arrived in 1908. They had married in 1904, but like many in Great Britain at that time, they found making a living difficult, and Canada and its homestead life looked promising. Arthur had followed Fred, (his younger brother by one or two years). Fred had begun homesteading in the Conmee Township and had encouraged Arthur to come. Fred had married Mary Torrie in 1908.

Like others who came to Canada, paying their passage and leaving from one of the seaports such as Liverpool, Southampton, Greenock, Arthur had boarded the S.S. Huronia and in a few days had arrived at Halifax or Montreal. They would then board the train to a destination hopefully the Canadian prairies. Some came out on pure speculation, others like Arthur Chadwell had a place to go to and be met. Perhaps, they too walked off the train with only a travelling case, steamer rug and umbrella, to be seen by a neighbour (Mrs. Margaret Walker Torrie) as they walked along a bush-trail to a brother's (Fred's) cabin.

The Farrowes: They began as Methodists. Percy came from England and was employed as "Engineer," by the Kamininistiquia Electric Power Company. He had served his electrical apprenticeship in India. He married Nora Evans, the youngest of a family of ten children. She had come out from England to Kakabeka Falls in 1914 to stay with her aunt Mrs. Mounstephen. They were married in 1916. Their three children were born at Kakabeka Falls - Margaret, Dorothy and Stanley. Percy would be transferred to Fraserdale, north of Sudbury, to superintend the building of the Power House and then return to live in Fort William. They would move to Vancouver around 1933, and then to England. After the death of Mr. Farrow in England, Mrs. Farrow, Dorothy and Stan would return, in 1947, to Canada and to Fort William.

The Weeks: Joseph and Hilda arrived in Kakabeka Falls in 1910 from Winnipeg with their children: Wesley, Mabel (later Mrs. Swanson), Eddie, Ethel (later Mr. Alex Loghrin). Joseph began working for the Kam Power Co. as a carpenter.

William White arrived from Collingwood, Ontario, around 1910. He bought a farm in the Oliver Township, and was a school-teacher.

Besides the farmland drawing in people who were "Anglican" (Church of England), the water-power potential of the Falls was beginning to provide employment.

The Daily Times-Journal of May 18, 1903, reported that a Mr. E.S. Jenison accompanied a Mr. J.T. Fanning of Minneapolis to the Kakabeka Falls and to the headquarters of the Kam River. They were to make a report to investors who were interested in the prospect of water-power development. The water-power could supply electricity to the town of Fort William and area. Work began at the Falls on June 10th, 1903. Mr. Francis Clergue of Sault Ste. Marie received the initial contract and

soon the area assumed the resemblance of a small village with hundreds of workers, who had come mainly from Europe. Their "village" was nicknamed "Tar Paper Town," there being many wooden shacks quickly erected.

The Kaministiquia Electric Power Company began construction. An intake dam was built across the Kam River above the Falls (1905) and the building of the aqueducts and power-house was started.

In an article by Mrs. Hazel Leiterman of O'Connor Township, it was mentioned that the top of the dam was 20 ft. wide, and the Power Company gave permission to the homesteaders living on the west side of the Kam River to drive their wagons and buggies across the top of the dam, otherwise the homesteaders would have had to drive down to Stanley and then up to Kakabeka. Another way over in the warmer seasons, was to row across, and in the winter to drive sleighs and cutters across the ice below the dam.(14)

One of the buildings of "Tar Paper Town" was "the cook-camp," built in 1904. The cooking facilities were operated by the Niagara Catering Company. The cook-camp was later converted into the "Pay-office." Mr. Percy Farrow, and Mr. Arthur Chadwell who had now found employment at the "Kam Power Company," received permission from the Electric Company to use the building on Sundays for Christian worship. These worship services continued in the Pay-office for two years. In 1911, the Electric Company turned the building over to a Board of Trustees chosen from Anglican and Methodist families with the understanding that it be made available for any type of meeting in the Community. The "charter" or written permission was framed and hung on the wall of the Mission Hall. It read as follows:

Kakabeka Falls Mission Hall
Kakabeka Falls, Ontario

Extracts from Constitution of the Above
That the object of the funds and building be
to provide accommodation for Religious, Charitable,
and Educational Meetings of no particular Sect or Creed
That Political and strictly, Secular Meetings
be debarred.

Dated the 11th day of November 1911
Kakabeka Falls, Ontario

In the Mission Hall, the Anglican and Methodist families alternated the Worship Services on Sundays. The Shantymen who visited the camps in the area, held religious meetings. The Winslow brothers - William and Bert - were sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. David McLean of Toronto of the Shantymen organization.

Clergy came - by foot, by horseback and by buggy. The first recorded Anglican Service was held in 1910, conducted by the Rev. Jethro Norman from Murillo. The Anglican families in and around Kakabeka Falls formed a mission-congregation, in fellowship with the congregation of St. James Church, Murillo.

The women like Mrs. Ada Chadwell who had known a servant's help in the Old Country, learned to can berries, look after the sheep, and carry milk from the barn across a creek to the house, to name only a few of the tasks. Later there would be a gramophone in the house on which the young people could play the latest records.

In 1912, the Canadian National Railway rerouted its track from Stanley to Kakabeka Falls, and a railway bridge was built over the Kam River. This benefited the O'Connor residents for they could now walk across the bridge to the Village. Many a story can be told of escapades that happened upon the railroad line as people walked home during the night hours. Mr. Arthur Chadwell told of what happened to him once as he walked along the tracks one night. He was carrying a lighted lantern which unhappily swayed as he walked. An oncoming train, saw this swaying light and braked. As Mr. Chadwell came up to the engine-cab, the engineer asked what the problem was. Arthur informed the engineer that there was no problem. At that, the irate engineer threw a lump of coal at the lantern which smashed the lantern, and Arthur equally angry and verbose, had to find the rest of his way home in the dark. It's not known if this was the incident that convinced him that he should move his family from the farm into the Village, but walking the miles to and from the farm each day during the months he worked at the Electric Company, walking home after a 10-hour shift, would be tiring for anyone. Eventually, they did move in 1914 to the Village leaving the log-cabin with its peeled dovetailed logs and the five acres of cleared land that he, with his brother's help, had built and worked. Later, like other families who had moved into the towns leaving their homestead behind, they would return during the summers to enjoy the old cabin and pick the berries again.

War came in September 1914, and the Dominion Government, concerned with protecting the railway bridge from saboteurs, placed a camp of Army personnel of the 96th Regiment at Kakabeka Falls to guard the bridge, as well as the power plant and intake dam. The railroad bridge was one of many important links in the transportation system that brought men and materials to the East Coast, enroute to the commitments overseas. In 1915, a more permanent railroad bridge was built by the Railway; it is the bridge which is still in use to-day.

Men volunteered for the armed services - such as from the Blackwell, Cunningham, McLean families. In 1917, the Pool family was bereaved of their son and brother, Henry, who was killed in Flanders.

In the Summer of 1916 or 1917, "Christian Endeavour" was held, supervised by Miss Wilkie (later Mrs. Alex Grayson), for the children of the Village. Ethel Ingram (later Mrs. Ethel McWilliams) who lived with her grandparents at the "Intake," remembered walking to the Village and attending the lessons, standing around the stove, singing "Bringing in the Sheaves" until she, along with others, "lost her voice." Miss Wilkie also walked from the "Dam," and continued teaching Sunday School. Mrs. McWilliams also remembered the boxcar which was the first C.N. Station and then the building of the new Station and the Community Hall. Mrs. Ada Elms impressions of the early Services at the Mission Hall were

of watching her father piling up the wood for the stove and afterwards waking from a sleep on her father's knee.

Kakabeka Falls was a well-known attraction for anyone in and around the Lakehead area. The "Daily Times Journal" reported that on July 12, 1917, an excursion to the Falls left the Fort William depot with over 1000 passengers at 10:15 AM, the passengers packed into the coaches. After sightseeing at the Falls, eating picnic lunches, and enjoying sports, they returned to the depot in the early evening. On some days, there would be three excursions.

On July 13, 1917, the new international highway to Duluth was opened. The Canadian side of the highway was still in a sometimes anxious condition and a driver was fortunate to make it through to Fort William without a puncture.

Anglican clergy who came to the Mission Hall on into the 1920's would have been the Rev. E.J. Heaven (June to October 1913, the Rev. R. Flemming (1914-1916), the Rev. W.P. Griffiths (1920-1922), the Rev. H. Watts (1924-1927). In 1924, Ed and Hilda Sutton arrived from Ft. William. Mrs. Harry Limer began teaching Sunday School. She was for many years the Church-organist.

In the early 1930's, the Rev. A. Greaves was the Incumbent (1927-1934). The combined Services continued in the Mission Hall. In 1925, Church Union had been inaugurated in Canada among the Methodist, Presbyterian and Congregational Churches, and the new "United Church" members began planning to have a building of their own.

There were some changes in the congregation among the Anglican members. The James Edgar family arrived in 1930. The Leonard Cardiffs left Kakabeka Falls in 1932 for Winnipeg. Donald Torrie arrived in 1934.

Several clergy arrived to minister: the Rev. J. Sturgeon (1934-1935), the Rev. A.J. Bull (1935-1936), the Rev. G. Lowe (May - July, 1936), the Rev. Stanley S. Yeomans (1936-1937), the Rev. Cyril Peto (who arrived in 1937).

July 1st, 1935, was the official opening of the Trans-Canada Highway between Lake Superior and Manitoba. The popular excursions from the Lakehead to Kakabeka Falls continued now along an easier roadway. The S.S. Noronic and the S.S. Hamonic were bringing sightseeing passengers to the Lakehead docks and many passengers added to their sightseeing by boarding the Hurtig buses and continuing their journey up to the Falls. Those who came by train could pay 25 cents and be taken from the Station to the Falls area. There they would find refreshments from the booths set up by other enterprising villagers such as the Weeks and Suttons.

Also during that year (1936, July) the members of the United Church who continued to worship in the Mission Hall, decided to begin raising money to establish a church-building of their own. Mr. Arthur Chadwell, along with Mrs. Pearl Martin and Mrs. Jean Leiterman did much to plan and raise the funds. That Summer, the Kam Power Company offered the trustees of the Mission Hall \$25.00 for the removal of the Mission Hall

within one month to another location. Tenders were sought. Mr Harry Limer's (the owner of a construction company) offer to do it for \$55.00 was accepted. The Hall was moved to a lot donated by the Clergue Estate, through the kindness of Fort William Real Estate. Mr. G.R. Duncan, the owner of the firm, died the day the legal transaction was completed.

In 1937, the Anglican "Ladies' Guild" was formed. The Charter members were: Miss Irene Pool was Secretary-Treasurer for 25 years, Mrs. G.Harry (Louise) Limer, Mrs. W.H. White, Mrs. J. (Sis) Edgar (President), Mrs. C. Peto (wife of the Rev. C. Peto), Mrs. M. (Mabel) Mounstephen, Mrs. Hazel Mounstephen. One of their money-raising projects was putting on Harvest Festival dinners in the Community Hall.

In 1938, the William Gransmores arrived, he to work at the Kam Power Company. The Lloyd Mays came from Saskatchewan the same year.

The work on the new United Church-building was progressing. Mr. Arthur Chadwell was invited to lay the cornerstone. The Dedication of the completed building was held on June 26th, 1938, with 150 people present. The pump-organ, which had been donated to the Mission Hall by Percy Farrow, was taken to the new church-building. The Church-Board had Mr. Chadwell write a letter to the trustees of the Mission Hall thanking them for the use of the Hall over the past many years.

THEIR OWN CHURCH-BUILDING:

A Public Meeting was finally called by the trustees for February 28th, 1940, to decide on the use of the Mission Hall, and the decision was made to turn it over to the care of the Anglicans. They named it "The Church of the Messiah" after the name of the Church in Toronto whose congregation had made it possible through the Rev. Mr. Peto, to furnish the sanctuary area.

The Vestry Book of 1942-1967, lists the Service held, the signature of the officiating clergyman (or lay-reader), the preacher, and number in attendance. Between the lines, it tells of the devotion of the Parish clergy, lay-readers and other lay-people of the Church of the Messiah, as well as the assistance given by other clergy of the Diocese who made the journey by car from the Lakehead.

Mr. H.W. Ellard was "Lay-Reader" and Catechist in-charge, until Mr. Francis Belt, Catechist with the Church Army began on Feb. 1st, 1942.

On May 11th of that year a Service of Dedication was held with 52 in attendance, including the Bishop - the Right Reverend Frederick George Kingston from Sault Ste. Marie, the Venerable C.W. Balfour (Archdeacon of the Deanery of Thunder Bay) and Rector of St. Paul's Fort William) Rev. Julian Smedley (Rector of St. John's Port Arthur), the Rev. Sidney F. Yeomans (Rural Dean and Rector of St. Luke's Fort William), the Rev.M. Harry Hankinson (Rector of St. Thomas' Fort William). Mr. Jim Noel Edgar, electrician for the Kam Power Company, was Rector's Warden, and Mr. Harry Limer was the People's Warden.

The Ladies' Guild voted to change its name to "The Woman's Auxiliary." Through the years, the women of the Church raised funds to cover the moving expenses of the buildings, the renovating, maintenance, as well as the annual apportionment. Jim Edgar (now of Sydney, B.C.) can still remember vividly Mrs. Bill White and Mrs. Limer putting on an afternoon Tea in the "old Church" when it was 20 below, outside, and his walking up the hill called "Limer's Hill."

On July 18/42, the Rev. Morse Goodman, who had been the Assistant Curate at St. Paul's, Fort William, came to The Church of the Messiah, as priest-in-charge of the Parish of West Thunder Bay. Holy Communion was celebrated once a month. Harvest Thanksgiving was held on Sept. 6th. Confirmations held in the Church were on May 9th/45, and June 3/46, at which the new Bishop - The Right Rev. William Lockridge Wright - officiated. Mr. Goodman, Harry Limer and Leonard Cardiff, spent many hours working at the Deanery Summer Camp at Sandstone Lake. Mrs. Ada Cardiff, having returned with her husband Leonard and their children from Winnipeg, was the W.A. president, and W.A. meetings were often held at the home of her parents, Mrs. Ada Chadwell being ill. An overflowing congregation attended Mrs. Chadwell's funeral at the Church in 1946.

The Parish magazine - "The Mission Bell" was now being published and distributed. Mr. Moore, a commercial printer of Westfort, set the type, and "The Mission Bell" with its news, comments and poetry and other items, was well-read in Anglican homes. Its name continues as the name of the Parish publication to-day.

Those confirmed at the Church during those years were Robert Williams, Leona Cardiff, Lorraine Cardiff, Gail Ellett. On Sunday, October 20th, 1946, Mr. Goodman preached his final sermon as priest-in-charge, and left to become Rector of St. Thomas', Fort William.

Sunday, January 26th, 1947, the congregation welcomed the Rev. Stephen W.L. Gilbert. He would conduct their Services until the end of October 1950. Mrs. Elms remembers Leonard Cardiff being Confirmed during this time. The Rev. Morse Goodman had wanted Leonard to become a church-warden, but he had advised Leonard that this could not happen until he had been Confirmed.

In 1947, the Church of the Advent at Hymers was closed, Bert and Laura Sitch having done much to care for it. Laura's mother, Mrs. Clara Pike and her husband, Albert, worked many hours to see it begin in 1900.

There are some interesting notes written in the "Comments" column of the Vestry Book and The Church of the Messiah, particularly of the weather:

April 6/47 - Easter Day - Very stormy
Nov. 9/47 - cold wind, first snow
Dec. 31/47 - lots of snow
Jan. 19/48 - 40 below last night, warmer now

Mar. 21/48 - very heavy snow
July 25/48 - Congregation of 6 attended Service at
Anderson Memorial United Church
June 5/49 - Baptism of John Frederick Sovereign

In the Fall of 1949, the congregation purchased the former O'Connor School S.S. No. 4, and it was moved across the Kakabeka Falls foot-bridge by Lloyd May and Leonard Cardiff. It found its new home as the church-building on the property on Clergue Street. The former church-building now became the church-hall. On the Second Sunday in Advent (Dec. 4th, 1949), the first Service was held in the new church-building, and on Dec. 6th, there was the Service of Dedication. It included a Service of Confirmation. Those present were: the Bishop - the Right Rev. William Wright, the Rev. Stephen W.L. Gilbert (the Incumbent), the Rev. W.B. Jennings (Rector of St. Paul's Fort William), the Rev. Morse Goodman (Rector of St. Thomas'). Mrs. Elms remembers being pleasantly surprised at the accomplished way in which Leonard gave the reply to the Bishop on behalf of all who were present!

On April 23, 1950, Mr. Eldred Rose, the Principal and teacher at the Kakabeka Central School (1949-1951) conducted Evening Prayer. Mr. Rose, as the Principal of an Anglican denominational school in Newfoundland, had been "Lay-reader" while teaching in his home diocese ("The Diocese of Newfoundland"). Because of this experience he was invited by Bishop Wright to be licensed as "Parochial Layreader," to officiate at Morning and Evening Prayer at the West Thunder Bay churches. He and Mr. Gilbert each had an Austin car, and either one of them could be seen on the roads during those days. Mr. Rose also acted as the Bishop's chaplain, carrying the Bishop's staff, when Bishop Wright visited the area, and Bishop Wright well-remembered Betty, Eldred and Pat's daughter, for her strong voice when the Lord's Prayer was being prayed.

The Rev. Stephen Gilbert left in the Fall of 1950, and the Rev. Arthur J. Bruce arrived in the West Thunder Bay Parish. His final Service at The Church of the Messiah was conducted on Sunday, August the 12th, 1951.

Miss Evelyn Knowles of Slate River had served as a teacher in the Sunday School for several years. She heard the "Call" to become a "Bishop's Messenger" - to assist a bishop, often at a country church where one's talents could also be well-used in officiating at Services as a lay-person. Irene Pool then took over the work of Sunday School by Post, sending out lessons and correcting the answers of those who were unable to attend Sunday School classes.

On Sunday, Feb. 3rd 1952, the Rev. William H. Peeling conducted his first Service with the congregation.

THE FIRE, REBUILDING AND GROWTH:

In the summer of '53, a grass-fire running under the two buildings tragically destroyed the church-building and the church-hall. That summer a new church-building was constructed on the same site. Mr. Harry Limer could be seen doing the main construction work, framing and finishing. Volunteers turned out to lend a hand. Eldred Rose, then teaching in Thunder Bay, remembers receiving a call one Saturday morning from Harry, to come out and help put on the roof. Harry and he finished the roof that same day. So with the help of many hands and the funds that were collected, the new church-building was completed that summer.

September 20th 1953, appears to have been the Opening Service of the new building. The clergy who were present were: Archdeacon W.W. Jarvis (Rector of St. Paul's Fort William), the Rev. David Mitchell (Rector of St. Luke's Fort William). On a Friday evening (May 14, 1954), the official Consecration of the building took place. The congregation welcomed the Bishop, the Right Rev. W.L. Wright, and several clergy from the Lakehead, along with the choir from St. Thomas' Fort William, which led in the singing.

During 1954, the Rev. Mr. Peeling left the Parish of West Thunder Bay and the Rev. William Banting was welcomed, officiating for the first time on Sunday, June 13th, assisted by Mr. George Brooke at the Service of Evensong.

On the evening of October 1st, a W.A. Deanery Service was held at the Church of the Messiah, attended by members from other parishes in the Lakehead and North Shore area, along with visitors and representatives of Deanery clergy: the Rev. James Hinchliffe (the new Rector of St. Paul's Fort William), and the Rev. Lawrence Robertson (Incumbent of St. Stephen's Current River).

In 1955, Bishop Wright was elected by the Provincial Synod of the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario to be "Archbishop" and the Anglicans of Kakabeka Falls, along with the other Churches in the Parish of West Thunder Bay expressed joy and best wishes upon his election. In 1957, the Kakabeka Provincial Park was opened.

In 1958, The Church of the Messiah ceased to be called a "Mission."

The Rev. Warren Banting noted in the Vestry Book on Feb. 28th 1958, that he "lays down the charge of this Parish and goes to Espinola in March." Mr. Robert Love, a theological student from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA. arrived in the Spring, remaining in the Parish for three months before going off to College. The clergy of the two cities (Fort William and Port Arthur) helped out in the celebration of the Holy Communion, such as the Rev. Alvin Thompson (Rector of St. John's Port Arthur).

Mr. Arthur Chadwell, who had helped to begin Christian Services for the community in 1912, resigned as an "elder" of the United Church. He was made an honorary elder and lived at Kakabeka with his daughter - Glenice.

The Rev. Eric B. Patterson came in June 21, 1959, and was Incumbent of the Parish until September 30th, 1962. He was aided during the Summer

of 1960 by the Rev. Robert Lumley (St. Stephen's, Current River) and the Rev. James Turner (St. George's). Mrs. Nora Flynn of St. Mary's, Vickers Heights, helped out as a substitute organist.

Between the years, 1961 and 1976, the population of Oliver Township increased. In 1971 it was 1305 persons, and in 1976 it numbered 1870. Schools were expanded, as pupil enrolment continued to grow. Later in 1968, one-room schools would be sold for residential use, and in 1969, Oliver Township would become a part of the Lakehead Board of Education. This increase was reflected in an increase in the congregations of the Parish of West Thunder Bay. In the early '60's attendance at worship was beginning to grow.

Sunday, October 28th, 1962, at 3 P.M., was the first Service (Evensong) at The Church of The Messiah at which the new Rector of the Parish - the Rev. Mark Conliffe - officiated. He was inducted as "Rector" of the Parish of West Thunder Bay at St. Mark's Rosslyn, on January 30th, 1963.

The Advisory Board Minutes of St. Paul's Fort William stated on October 8th, 1964, that the little church-building called "St. Margaret's" in the Stanley Park area (across from "K" Mart, West Arthur Street) was now sold to the West Thunder Bay Parish and would be moved to Kakabeka Falls to be The Church of the Messiah's church-hall. It had been built, and opened for Services on Oct. 4, 1953, and had been dedicated by Bishop Wright in '54. Worship had been attended by families living in the "West End," and remembered for events held there, such as: the Christmas Pageant, Carol Service, Harvest Suppers and Junior Auxiliary meetings. St. Margaret's Mission closed its doors in March 1961, the building no longer necessary. At Kakabeka Falls, a few yards from the church-building, the men of the Church made a cement slab and the mission-building was carried by Hacquoil Construction from the "West End" on one of their floats, deposited on the slab. The building was renamed "St. Margaret's Hall."

The remarks in the "Comments" column, of the Vestry Book of the Church of the Messiah, tell a story of the difficulties of holding Services at the Church during the winter months:

March 17, 1963 - snow-storm -- cancelled
December 8, 1963 - severe snowstorm - attendance 5
February 8, 1967 - Ash Wednesday - stuck in snow
had Penitential Service (for members
unable to attend the Eucharist)
February 12, 1967 - very cold - -39 F. attendance 5
December 24, 1967 - no heat - service not held

A Sunday School was organized in the church-hall in 1965. There were several families with children, and while the parents worshipped next door in the church-building Betty Sand, Ferne Hunt, Dorothy Beaney and Verna Garland helped with the Sunday School. One of the Lockwood boys who with his siblings attended Sunday School lit the fire in the oil space-heater in the church-hall for the comfort of the children and teachers. Betty Sand, at the Annual Vestry Meeting on January 19, 1966, reported that the total enrolment of the children from pre-school age to

age 14 numbered 41. The children and teachers made up the largest Sunday School that The Church of the Messiah was blessed with in its history.

That same year, the W.A. published "Art of Cooking in Kakabeka Falls." with the help of merchants in the District. The women collected many and varied recipes, and the booklets still show signs of continuous use to-day in many homes.

The women of the W.A. received notice in 1967 from Toronto that the name of their national organization was now changed to "The Anglican Church Women." They continued to be busy with their Christmas Tea, Spring Tea, and helped to provide the funds and some of the labour to have the buildings painted inside and out. Annual Garden parties were held at Irene Pool's, the men of the parish bringing the chairs from the church-hall, and the women bringing over the cups and saucers. Visitors attended the Garden parties from the churches in Fort William and Port Arthur.

April 2nd, 1968 (Tuesday), saw a larger number of candidates presented to the Archbishop for Confirmation. There were 12 candidates and 90 people in attendance.

On Sunday, July 14th, 1968, the Rev. David A.P. Smith had his first Service at The Church of the Messiah - "The Holy Eucharist" (another name for the Service of Holy Communion). Roger Lockwood and Brian Sovereign (a server) have their names in the Vestry Book as assisting with the Services, as well as the Rev. H. Gordon Phillips, Honorary Assistant at St. Thomas'. Miss Ruby Symes organized the Young People's group. Well-enjoyed Bible Studies were held in various homes and in the church-hall, attended by the Young People's group as well as adults. Bible studies were continued with the help of Church Army captains: Ernie Scriver, Hank Willems.

The Church of the Messiah Altar Guild was formed in 1969. Mrs T. Beaney continued in the work for several years.

The Minutes of the Annual Vestry meeting of January 21, 1970, shows that much work in and around the buildings continued. On March the 8th, a special vestry meeting was held to consider a questionnaire sent out by the Township of Oliver asking whether or not the owners of the properties would agree to have sewer and water in the Village. The Church-members agreed to have sewer and water facilities made available to the Village. The yearly cost to the owners would be \$100-\$120 for services. The Church-members wrote to the Township that they could not make use of these services at that time. Their buildings were heated only on Sunday, and there were no facilities for running water.

Insurance coverage on the buildings was now to \$10,000 - \$7,000 on the Church-building, and \$3,000 on the Hall.

In 1972, the Sunday School "closed its doors."

The Rev. David Smith's final Service at "The Messiah" was on October 20th, 1972.

The entry in the Vestry Book of October 15th, 1972, states that the officiants at the Service of Mattins were: John Sovereign and David Coons, Lay-readers in the Parish.

The Rev. James Turner arrived for his first Service - a Eucharist - on January 14, 1973. He remained as Incumbent until November 6, 1977. During the Services, members of the congregation helped in the reading of the Scriptures, and whenever the organist was unable to be present Father Turner himself played the pump-organ.

A well-remembered event was Worship held outdoors one Sunday afternoon in the Summer at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Beaney in the Conmee Township. Mrs. Lily Beaney had been A.C.W. President for many years.

The Rev. Robert Kelsey officiated at his first Service on June 25th, 1978. He was often assisted by Mr. Vic Sandells. At the Vestry Meeting held in the afternoon at 2:30 January 14th, 1979, it was decided to close the Church for the winter months and have it re-opened on Easter Day. This seasonal practice which had begun earlier continued to be the custom.

When the Rev. Robert Kelsey was transferred to Bala within the Diocese, following his final Service on June 6th, 1982, the Rev. Michael Lawson, (formerly with the Diocese of Brandon in Manitoba) arrived and had his first Service with the congregation on September 19th. Not only could the Winter's blasts be a hindrance to attendance, but also could the Summer's heat. The Rector's "comments" on August 7th, 1985, stated:

"hot 40 C (104 F) 9 - H.C. (Holy Communion)

An addition to the congregation at this time was Bob and Connie Elkin and their family. Bob had worked as a missionary-teacher at Pikangikum north of Sioux Lookout and now had employment in Thunder Bay. He had entered Huron College to study Theology and would later (1987) be ordained by Bishop Peterson to serve as a priest in the Algoma Diocese. One summer, he organized the suppers that were held on Sundays in the church-hall, after which the diners went into the church for the Service.

The Services were discontinued for the winter season in October and began again in May.

Bert Sitch had commented in a short write-up:

The size of the congregation was decreasing. As older members passed away, and the younger members moved to obtain employment, it became financially impossible for the few remaining contributors to keep the buildings maintained.

A major difficulty was the size of the lot. It was decided that there could be no well to provide water and the lot was too small for a septic field. Young families were attending St. James Church at Murillo where there was a Sunday School and the fellowship they were looking for.

On Wednesday, August 13, 1986, the Wardens and representatives of the congregation of The Church of the Messiah met and agreed to dispose of

the buildings and land, subject to the approval of the Executive Committee of the Diocese of Algoma.

A "Closing Service" was arranged. It would coincide with a Service of Harvest Thanksgiving to be held on Sunday, September 7th, giving thanks to God for the opportunity of serving the Lord in Kakabeka Falls and area for the past 74 years. Along with Holy Communion there would be a Baptism. The Venerable E. Roy Haddon, Archdeacon of Algoma, would come as Celebrant and Bishop Leslie Peterson's commissary to deconsecrate the buildings, the Rev. Michael Lawson would preach, the candidate for Baptism would be Matthew Michael Drabit. Contact was to be made with as many former members of The Church of the Messiah as possible.

On Thursday afternoon, August 21st, the Rev. David Smith, Rector of St. Paul's Thunder Bay, along with Mrs. Elms and several others (18 persons in all) joined together in a special Service, in the church-building which had meant so much to them throughout the years.

Sunday, September 7th, the congregation gathered - numbering 74 - including the clergy. Fifty-one contacts with former parishioners had been made. Those visiting, from a life-time of keeping in touch, included Mildred (Mounstephen) Smith, Hazel Cook, and Arthur Chadwell's great granddaughter from Ottawa - Tami Stewart - in the care of her grandmother, Ada Elms. The officers of the Church at that time were: Herb Sovereign - People's Warden, Bert Sitch - Rector's Warden, Mrs. Irene Sovereign - Treasurer.

Many people having a special part during the Closing ceremonies were thanked: Archdeacon Haddon, Father Lawson, Mrs. Freda Kamstra for playing the organ, Herb and Irene Sovereign for setting up the altar, Mrs. Hilda Broome and Mrs. Rose Hymers for arranging the Harvest decorations, Mrs. Cheryl Sovereign and Mrs. Cheryl Richard for organizing and preparing the Tea in St. Margaret's Hall and Mrs. Marina Lawson for making the Cross-Cake for the lunch, and not forgetting to mention the many others who helped to make a memorable Closing Service.

On February 26th, 1987, the Diocesan Executive at their meeting in Sault Ste. Marie, gave permission for the buildings and land to be disposed of. The Church-building was donated to the Oliver Historical Society to become Kakabeka Falls' first museum. The Society moved it off the Church property to Hill Street. The Church hall and a portion of the land was sold to Mr. Grant Myers and the other portion of the land was sold to Mr. George Almgren. Prior to the time of the sale, Grant Myers moved away and his portion of the land was sold to George Almgren. The financial books were closed at the end of 1986, and the monies left in Church funds, and realized from the transaction of Church and property, were forwarded to the Diocesan office in Sault Ste. Marie. The Diocesan office in turn made it possible for the Parish of West Thunder Bay to help to pay off the mortgage on the Church at St. James Murillo and purchase Bibles for that Church.

The people of The Church of the Messiah continue to worship and serve the Lord as members of the other Churches of the West Thunder Bay Parish.

APPENDIX

Older records held at the Synod Office of the Diocese of Algoma, in Sault Ste. Marie, of Baptisms, Confirmations, Marriages, Burials, appear to have been recorded in record-books other than in those listed pertaining to "The Church of the Messiah" and at this time the names and books are difficult to discover. Many Baptisms were held in homes. The following, are listed for your interest:

Anglican Baptisms held in the Mission Hall:

Nov. 7, 1920 - Mildred Grace Mounstephen
" 21, 1920 - Donald Laucklan Torrie
" 21, 1920 - Willie Edward James
" 20, 1920 - Arthur Frederick James
Dec. 18, 1920 - Gwendolyn Elizabeth Mounstephen
Sep. 11, 1927 - John Mounstephen
Jul. 15, 1928 - Mabel Isabel Edgar
1938 - Sandra Louise Lee

Between the years Nov 2, 1952 and the closing of the Church in 1986, there was a total of 89 Baptisms celebrated in The Church of the Messiah.

Confirmations recorded in The Church of the Messiah records:

Monday, June 3, 1946 - Leona Doreen Cardiff
Lorraine Anne Cardiff
Robert Alexander Williams
Gale Frances Ellett
at the Church of the Messiah

Monday, Sept. 1, 1947 - Mary Ann Chambers
Thomas William Chambers
Robert Edward Chambers
at St. Paul's Church, Fort William.

April, 18, 1948 - Marian Hilda Broome
Leonard Harold Cardiff
at St. Paul's Church, Fort William.

Nov. 28, 1948 - Leonard Reed George Cardiff
at St. James Church, Murillo.

Anglican Marriages recorded:

May 11, 1916 - Percival Robert Farrow to Norah Evans (Rev. R.H. Fleming)
In the 1920's - Bert Lindstrom and Grace Chadwell
Dec 12, 1933 - William Bruce to Eulah Grayson (Rev. A. Greaves)
Aug 12, 1935 - John Jackson to Helen Dowdy
June 17, 1960 - Frederick Norstrom to Edna Bisson (Rev. E. Paterson)
July 16, 1960 - Joseph McGarty to Majorie Hunt (Rev. E. Paterson)
July 5, 1961 - Douglas Hunt to Gloria Green (Rev. E. Paterson)
Aug 3, 1963 - Claude Plante to Elvira De Graeve (Rev. M. Conliffe)
Sept 7, 1963 - Leonard Cook to Ilmi Maenpaa (Rev. M. Conliffe)
Aug 26, 1966 - Roger Vaillant to Barbara Cook (Rev. M. Conliffe)
Nov 12, 1966 - Alvin Pogue to Katherine Stokes (Rev. M. Conliffe)
Jan 12, 1968 - Lorne Roy to Cynthia Martin (Rev. M. Conliffe)
Jan 20, 1968 - Edwin Hamre to Kathleen Foster (Rev. M. Conliffe)
May 15, 1970 - Bruce Crozier to Ellen Foster (Rev. D. Smith)
Sept 25, 1970 - Ronald Leiterman to Sandra Hayward (Rev. D. Smith)
Dec 16, 1973 - James Sovereign to Cheryl Somers (Rev. J. Turner)

Funerals recalled by Mrs. Elms:

Mrs. Ada Chadwell
Mrs. J. Edgar
Mrs. Nina Weeks
Mr. Dearlove

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