

HISTORICAL NOTES ON THE EARLY DAYS OF CHRIST CHURCH

ENGLEHART, Ont.

By the Rev. John Leigh, B.D., now Rector of All Saints', Vancouver, B.C.

In 1906 the thoughts of my wife and I were turned towards Canada. From England I wrote to Dr. Thorneloe, the Lord Bishop of Algoma, asking him if he could offer me work in his Diocese. He wrote back to the effect that if I was the right kind of man, to come at once, as he needed men badly. Whereupon further correspondence ensued and I was offered the annual stipend of \$500.00, this being \$100.00 a year more than was usually paid to lay workers, but the \$500.00 was offered me as I was a married man.

I embarked at Liverpool on the S.S. Virginian (Allan Line) Good Friday, March 29th, 1907. My orders were to report to the Rev. C.E. Bishop, rector of St. John's, North Bay, Ontario, and await an interview with Dr. Thorneloe. Mrs. Leigh and her young son, a little more than twelve months old, were to follow me later. I disembarked at Halifax on April 6th and proceeded at once to North Bay. The train on which I travelled was wrecked and caught fire near Chapleau, a number of passengers lost their lives. With the Rev. and Mrs. C.E. Bishop I stayed a week or so, during which time I had an interview with Dr. Thorneloe, who sent me to a place named Englehart, after the chairman of the Temiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway Commission. The Rev. C.E. Bishop obtained a pass for me over this railway and the first part of the journey was made in the company of Mr. Black who was superintendent of the same.

The first meeting in Englehart was held Wednesday, April 17th, 1907, in the office of Williams Hugh, Crown Lands agent, the Rev. R.A. Cowling, rector of Haileybury, having travelled up with me from Haileybury, took the chair, he being my Priest-in-Charge.

At this first meeting some organising was done and the matter of immediately proceeding to the erection of a residence for me was discussed. At a second meeting, also held in Mr. Hugh's office, it was moved by Mr. H.L. Douglass, who was a druggist and later appointed by me as warden, and seconded by Mr. Frank Preston "That a contract be given by tender for the building of a dwelling". This was carried out and a shack 30" x 14" was built.

At the second meeting it was reported that considerable advance had been made in the clearing of the Church lots; that logs had been drawn from the bush to the saw mill, owned and operated by Messrs. Woollings, same to be cut into lumber for the building of the Parsonage and further that money was being collected to pay for same. Favourable comments were made on our first Service held the Sunday previous, viz., April 21st, 1907, it was the third Sunday after Easter. Mr. John Wilson had walked from his farm at Scotts Crossing, afterwards called Wawbewawa, a few miles North of Englehart, to play the organ for us, only to find there was no organ to play, for we had not been successful in obtaining one. Incidentally Mr. Wilson remarked that he had saved a man a long walk, he being on his way to Englehart to purchase food for himself, being under the impression it was Saturday.

Previous to April 21st, 1907, no Church of England Service had been held in Englehart with the exception of a Baptismal Service when the Ven. Archdeacon Gilmor baptized the infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Stokell.

The Methodists moved into the new Church they had erected for themselves, the very day we held our first Service. They were ahead of us nine months. They used the school room rented by the Public School Trustees. As the Methodists moved out of that building, we moved in.

The foundation of our little Parsonage was laid on Monday May 6th. I went to live in it, minus doors and windows on Tuesday, May 21st, and it was completed some ten days later. It was complete and furnished when my wife and child arrived from England on Monday, June 10th, 1907.

At the meeting held Wednesday, April 17th, 1907, Mr. H.L. Douglass was elected secretary and his minutes read: "Meeting opened at 8.30, Mr. Cowling conducting the same (Cowling is spelled Carling, wrongly by Mr. Douglass) and commencing the same with prayer after which he delivered a short address pointing out a few points as to what had already been done and as to the best methods of raising funds. (The required amount for stipend being one hundred and fifty dollars). Moved by Mr. Douglass and seconded by Mr. F. Preston that the amount of at least \$150.00 be guaranteed to the clergyman's stipend. (Carried). Moved by Mr. Hugh seconded by Mr. Preston, that the men form themselves into a bee to clean the lots. (Carried.) Suggestions were made as to building a rectory. Moved by Mr. Preston that Messrs. Leigh, Tipton, Browning and Douglass act as a financial committee. Moved by H.L.D. (this means Mr. Douglass) and seconded by Mr. Preston, Mr. Leigh to draw a plan and Mr. Ellis to estimate on a temporary dwelling, motion put and carried. Moved by H.L. Douglas seconded by Mr. Richardson that Mr. West act as musical leader. (Carried.) Moved by Mr. Towler seconded by Mr. Preston that we meet one week from present date to continue business. Short address from Mr. Leigh and meeting closed. H.L. Douglass. Minutes read and adopted."

Those present at the above meeting were Mr. Cowling; Mr. Leigh; Mr. West; Mr. Hugh; Mr. F. Preston; Mr. Browning; Mr. Tipton; Mrs. Browning; Mrs. Douglass; Mr. Ellis; Mr. J. Preston; Mr. V. Richardson; Mr. Moore; Mr. Robins; Mr. Weaver; Mr. Hppkins; Mr. J. Huey; Mr. Richardson; Mr. Stokell; Mr. Boone; Fred Boone; Mr. Towler.

The minutes of the meeting held April 24th, when again Mr. H.L. Douglass was secretary, read as follows: "Minutes of previous meeting read and adopted. Moved by Mr. F. Preston and seconded by Mr. West that Mr. Douglass procure a minute book. Moved by Mr. West that Mr. Richardson be People's Warden and seconded by Mr. Cat. (Carried.) Mr. Leigh made the appointment of H.L. Douglass as his Warden. Moved by Mr. Preston and seconded by Mr. West that foundation timber be purchased. Moved by H.L. Douglass that a contract be given by tender for the building of a dwelling and seconded by Mr. Preston. (Carried.)"

A subscription list was opened at the first meeting held April 17th with the following result; H.L. Douglass \$10.00; Mr. West \$2.00; Mr. Hugh no amount is stated; Mr. F. Preston \$2.00; Mr. Browning \$5.00; Mr. Tipton \$10.00; Mrs. Browning \$5.00; Mrs. Douglass, no amount stated; Mr. J. Preston \$1.00; Mr. V. Richardson .50¢; Mr. Moore \$1.00; Mr. Robins \$2.00; Rev. R.A. Cowling \$5.00; Mr. Leigh \$5.00; Dayton Ostrosser \$5.00; James Johnstone \$2.50; E.J. Knight \$1.00; E.S. Theaker \$5.00; Fred W. Dyer \$2.00; R.H. Stanton \$5.00; H.B. Thomson \$5.00; A.W. Aubin \$3.00; Dreany Bros. \$10.00; J.P. Lambert \$1.00; Thos. P. Watson \$5.00; Mr. White \$2.00; (Here follow three names which are illegible) John Clarke \$5.00; Mr. Hayes \$2.00; John Dinas \$1.00; Mr. Stokell \$2.45; Mr. Boone \$1.00; Mr. Weaver \$2.25; (Mr. J. Huey \$1.00 is crossed out) Mr. Richardson \$1.00; Mr. Fred Boone \$1.00; E.W. Towler \$1.00; Claude Kennedy \$1.00; Wm. Daly \$5.00; Norma Campbell \$2.00; C.E. Symes \$5.00; S. Brock \$2.00; G.L. Campbell \$5.00; J. Sears \$10.00; Mr. McKinnon .50¢; Mr. Stakes \$3.00; Mr. Toy \$1.00; H.J. Kirt \$5.00; Tom Magladery \$5.00; Magladery Bros. \$5.00; J. McDonnell .35¢; James Loftus .50¢ Name illegible \$1.00; L. Bieux \$1.00; Mrs. Parkhill \$2.00; Mr. Dixon \$3.00; Miss Browning \$1.00; H.A. Bunt \$2.00; Wm. Carey \$1.00; Mr. McTidy \$2.00; New Ont. Drug Co. \$5.00; James Woolings \$1.00;

Not all of the above are marked "paid" and I am afraid some of the promises were not kept. The following is a second list which I took myself. All are marked "paid". The list is headed: "Subscription list in aid of the Church of England Building Fund, Englehart. Every little helps. "God loveth a cheerful giver".

George Tappenden \$1.00; Mr. T. Dickenson \$1.00; Mr. J. Dickenson. 50¢; Mr. T. Green. 50¢; Mr. J. Prophet. 50¢; Mr. A. McDonald \$1.00; Georgie Dickenson Jun. .25¢; Mr. Field .70¢; John Burns .50¢; John Connell \$1.00; E.J. Byfield \$1.00; J.C. Wilson \$4.00;

During the summer of 1907 the Rev. J.M. Ballard, senior curate of Christ Church, Tynemouth, England, was sent out by his Vicar and congregation with the sum of \$136.83 to be given to some Church in the Diocese of Algoma. The Bishop, Dr. Thorneloe, very kindly sent Mr. Ballard up to my wife and I at Englehart and the money was given to assist in the erection of our Englehart Church on the understanding that Englehart Church should be called Christ Church after the Mother Church in Tynemouth and that our daughter Churches should be named after the daughter Churches of Tynemouth, of which, if I remember rightly there are five, St. Oswald and St. Faith being two of them.

My first Services in Charlton were held in the sitting room of the British Hotel, which was run by a Syrian married to an English woman. They were always most kind to me and placed a bed and food at my disposal at any and all time. Later I left the Hotel and held my Services in a railway passenger car, used as a waiting room. The wheel had been removed and the car jacked up. I used to turn the seats the one way and stand at the end of the car. It made a good Church, or at least, it served the purpose. Later still we left the passenger car for Foakes hall, built over Mr. Foakes grocery store. It was very hot in summer and smelled badly of cheese and coffee etc., however we were grateful for the loan of it. Then we had the pleasure of moving into

our little Church dedicated to St. Faith, this was shortly before leaving for North Cobalt, to take charge of St. George's there. This was in 1910.

During my time a Church was built and opened at Thorneloe, but I am sorry to say I do not appear to have any notes of this. I used to take the Services, until the Church was opened, in a room over the Post Office, loaned by Mr. Robert Brittain. He and his family were always very kind and extended a hearty welcome.

At the end of my first year's work I was asked for a report for the S.P.G. This was my first intimation that I was indebted to this venerable society for a part of the stipend which came to me through the Diocese, I haven't a finished copy of the report by me, but the following is a copy of my rough notes thereof:
"Report of the year's work commencing April 16th, 1907, to April 19th 1908, previous to this date the Church of England was not represented here.

1. Englehart. Services held 125, attendance 1867, H.C. 9 times, Baptisms 10, Confirmees 4, Burials. 2.
 2. Heeslip with Tom's Town, $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles S. of Englehart. The school in which the Services are held is 4 miles from Englehart. Services 37, attendance 198.
 3. Scotts Crossing, $6\frac{1}{2}$ miles N. of Englehart, Services 5, attendance 73.
 4. Boston, Now called Dane, $21\frac{1}{2}$ miles N. of Englehart, Services 2, attendance 40.
- Places visited but not any Services held as yet. Larder Lake $21\frac{1}{2}$ miles N. of Englehart following the railway and then 18 miles due south.
Charlton 8 miles N.W. of Englehart.
Brentha on the Heaslip and Charlton Road, 10 miles from Englehart.

A Church and Parsonage have been built at Englehart. The Rev. J.M. Ballard, sen. curate of Charist Church, the Parish Church of Tynemouth, England, visited us bringing with him the sum of \$136.83 for us on condition that our central Church and daughter Churches be named after the mother and daughter Churches of Tynemouth. Much remains to be done to both Church and Parsonage the former needs underlining and clapboarding, the latter needs raising on its foundations, enlarging and clapboarding. Our first effort however, must be to clear off the already existing debt, which we hope to do with the proceeds of a sale of work to be held April 23rd. We shall then D.V. be able to do something to both Church and Parsonage, in the way of making them warm and completing them not forgetting the furnishing of the Church in accordance with our Services. I am much indebted to the lady members of the congregation for help and support in getting up socials etc., to help bring in money. Personally I should very much like to be able to do without such functions but under the circumstances find it impossible. May I, in closing this brief report which may serve to show a little how well my people have helped, thank the Board most heartily and sincerely for the support accorded myself and family. I am deeply grateful."

Regarding the distances mentioned in the above report, it should be

remembered I have stated the distance at the building in which I used to hold my Services. At Scotts Crossing for instance I held my Services in the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Wilson, and this was some distance from the railway. At Heaslip, the school I used was at least a mile from the railway, and it was the railway I had to walk mostly, and then branch off to the building or home I wished to use.

John Leigh.