

PARISH CHURCH
OF
ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST



SAULT STE. MARIE
ONTARIO
1985

INTRODUCTION

This book is written as a tribute to the many faithful parishioners who gave so much to the life in St. John's Church during its 85-year history. We hope it will give pleasure to those who read it.



Archdeacon F.R. Coyle
Incumbent

F O R E W O R D

I have just read through these memories of 85 years in the life of this remarkable parish. On behalf of all who read this book, I offer thanks and congratulations to Mrs. Phyllis Brideaux for compiling it for us; we also thank Margaret Morton for her assistance.

In 1985, I shall also mark a milestone: the 20th anniversary as Rector of this parish. We came here in August, 1965. Our lives have been deeply enriched and blessed--Peggy's and mine--by our sharing in the ongoing life of this beloved church and people.

Our world in this past 84 years has seen much suffering, several world wars and some severe economic crises. These years have also seen us leap from the Victorian era into the space age -- from extreme isolation to satellite communication for a whole world. Through such vast and shaking changes, the gifts of faith, courage and humour that speak out from these pages remain pioneer strengths our world needs. In the midst of much change and the shaking of many foundations, this book reminds us that God still lives in our midst. Our life in Christ and with Christ in His Body the Church is a reality, one of "those things that cannot be shaken." (Hebrews 12:27)

Faithfully yours in
Christ,

Frank R. Coyle

F.R.Coyle

November 12, 1984

Church of St. John the Evangelist

The little red brick church at the corner of Albert and John Streets has become a landmark in the city of Sault Ste. Marie.

The year 1900 is marked on its cornerstone and it has offered sanctuary and comfort for troubled citizens over the past 85 years. It was then known as "St. John's Chapel of Ease".

It was initiated into the life of the little west end industrial community during the troubled years of 1902 when thousands of men were left unemployed by a shut down of Consolidated Companies. They had no notice of the shut down and were left with wages unpaid for more than a month.

Besides the men in town, others working in the woods and in Michipicoten were in the same situation. All came into town, resulting in near riots, militia patrolling the streets, and great fear, despair and excitement gripped the town.

These were sorrowful days for the mission which had only been established some three years.

The industrial situation showed no signs of improvement during the following 12 months. In the September, 1904 issue of the Anglican Missionary News we find the following article: "People in the province seem to have an idea that 'the works' are in operation again and that things are improving generally. Would it were so, Rev. C. Piercy, of the mission of St. John the Evangelist in the west end knows that the long strain and wait and 'hope deferred' since September last has found many carefully managed homes in greater difficulties during the past two months than before."

However, the economy improved and the little church proved steadfast through two World Wars, a depression in the 1930's, a boom in the 1970's until the present day.

One of the highlights of the history of this beautiful little house of worship is the inspiring stained glass window which has an eventful history:

It came from Holy Trinity Church, Hurstpierpoint, Sussex, England whose ecclesiastical history is mentioned in the Domesday Book.

The subject of the window is the Ascension of our Blessed Lord. In the upper part of the centre panel is a representation of Jesus ascending into heaven, the panels on either side above the cloud circle being filled with figures of angelic musicians. Below and upward looking, grouped across the five panels are the Blessed Virgin Mary and the eleven Apostles. In the quatrefoils on either side above the lancets are figures of Moses receiving the Tablets of the law and of Elijah in a fiery chariot. The circle above has six sections--in three of which are angels while the other three each contain a "Sanctus" making a Three Holy read around the circle.

The window came to us from England through the solicitation and zealous interest of Miss Gurney. It was intended that it should have a place in the Pro-Cathedral Church of St. Luke but the rector and church wardens came to the conclusion that it was too large, the building being far from lofty. The Bishop offered it to the other church in Sault Ste. Marie--St. John the Evangelist--and it was thankfully accepted. The means to put it into place were lacking and the church in debt.

But when it was known that the Bishop would soon start for England, the Rev. C. Piercy, the priest in charge and his church wardens all desirous of accomplishing the desired object if at all possible, placed the matter before the vestry. All present at the meeting became enthusiastic and by delaying a payment on the Church debt for a year it was thought the necessary cost could be ventured upon.

The Bishop of the diocese at this time was Archbishop Thorneloe, grandfather of Peggy Coyle, wife of the present rector of St. John's. Very fortunately, a workman was found, who, having had some experience, was free to do the work, and a substantial frame of good workmanship was made and placed in position.

It cost \$140.00. To this must be added the cost of insurance and repairs--the window suffered damage in transit to Montreal--and freight--\$83.00, according to a former publication. Then there is the cost of insurance and wiring making a total of \$271.00.

"The W.A. of the Mission gave \$100.00, subsequent subscriptions have reached the sum of \$86.00. To meet the balance, one of the members of the W.A. loaned \$100.00 without interest for a year. Altogether we feel we have done well and are justified in our action."

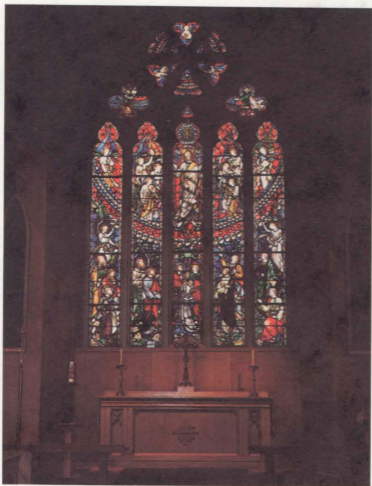
"It was a great pleasure to have the Bishop with us on Sunday, May 14th to dedicate the window. The church was filled to the doors. The Bishop told the congregation some interesting facts concerning the window, which had been consecrated in the parish church of Hurstpierpoint, Sussex, England. It had been taken from the place to make room for a more costly one and had been sent to Algoma through the kind efforts of some of the devoted friends of the diocese resident there.

Not the least interesting fact in the history is that it came from the parish church in which the Hannington family regularly worshipped and therefore must often have fixed the gaze of the youth who in after life became known to the world as a Christian martyr--Bishop James Hannington. A reader of his life will remember that when dragged forth to die he spoke a few last words so full of meaning that the men who heard them, savage though they were, could repeat them afterwards, word for word. "Tell your King," he said, "that I am about to die but that I have purchased the road to Uganda with my life."

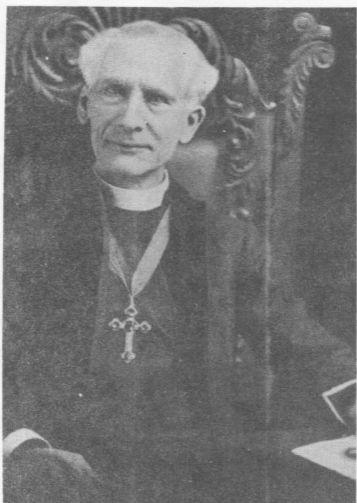


THE 18th CENTURY CHURCH BUILT BY JOHN URDY.

Parish Church
Hurstpierpoint
Sussex, England



Ascension Window



The Most Rev. George Thorneloe
M.A., D.D., D.C.L.
Archbishop of Algoma
Metropolitan of Ontario

In 1905 an extensive work project was undertaken to rebuild the church as it was considered unsafe. It cost \$1,100.00. The work was started in July and Dec 27th, 1907, was set aside as the parochial festival of St. John's with the renovations completed.

It was August 15, 1909 that Rev. C. Piercy (now Canon) bade farewell to the congregation. It was during his ministry, in 1906, that another mission to the north of the Steel Plant, in connection with St. John's church, which we know as St. Peter's Mission, was started. As early as 1905 he saw the need for a Parish Hall. This was to come 14 years later.

Canon Piercy was succeeded by Rev. W. Hardy Johnson, others were Rev. W.H. Trickett, Rev. P.F. Bull, Rev. R.H. Fleming, Rev. Cyril Clarke, Rev. J.D. Wall, Rev. Roy Webb, Archdeacon J.S. Smedley and the present incumbent Archdeacon Frank Coyle.

Another beautiful stained glass window in the sanctuary depicting our Lord as the Good Shepherd was given by the Smedley family and the parishioners in memory of the Archdeacon who retired from the ministry at St. John's in 1965.

The church is full of memorials to those who dedicated themselves in so many aspects throughout its 85-year history. Included among gifts and memorials are bronze plaques to John Alan Houston, R.C.A.F., born March 10, 1918, died Feb. 20, 1944, and to Joe E. Johnston, Boulogne, France, April 1916, age 21.

The pulpit in memory of Agnes McLean was given by Agnes Elgie.

The pall in memory of our loved ones, 1969.

The white altar super-frontal in memory of John Cudlipp, 1919 - 1976.

The lectern in memory of T.V. Lake, 2nd Batt'n first division. Died March 16, 1920.

The Bible given by Vina Dodd, 4th Sunday in Lent, March 20, 1966.

Scout Plaque in memory of Edwin C. Brideaux by Scouting & Guiding & friends of the city 1887 - 1966.

The picture of Jesus and children in memory of Hannah and Charles Bullock 1979.

The Road to Emmaus picture in memory of John Cudlipp 1979.

Lake Memorial installed July 19, 1979.

Thomas Henry Lake, 1865 - 1954

Mrs. Ada Adfield Lake, 1870 - 1947

Henry Morton Lake, 1890 - 1955

Thomas Valentine Lake, 1896 - 1920

Albert Edward Lake, 1902 - 1969

The white candleabra by Rankin family.

The minister's chair Jr. W.A. Dec. 1926.

The window in memory of Archdeacon Julian Sale Smedley, 1952 - 1965, gift of family, friends & parishioners Oct. 1973.

Altar light given by Bob Hitchen.

Advent candleabra in memory of George Roberts by V. Hammond family.

Wooden plates in memory of Youth leaders given by Phyllis Brideaux.

Last supper picture in memory of George Roberts.

Chair in memory of Mary J.T. Shippey, May 24, 1966.

Prayer desk in memory of R.J. & D.V. Clement from Edward.

Baptism ewer in memory of Bertha Isabel McCullough, 1908 - 1966, gift of Charlie Seale.

Memorial Pews include Catherine Shewfelt, Samuel Henry Royal, George Buckley from family, William C.B. & Charles B. Johnson, Charles B. Morgan, Agnes McLean, Eli & Mary A. Brideaux, George, Barbara & John Houston, Loraine Swinburne, Mary A. Smedley, Joseph & Eliza Smedley, Robert Henry Fleming, James Dolgarno Wall, James & Margaret White, Members of Group #1, Members of Womans' Auxiliary, Sunday School teachers, George H. & Catherine Bone, Margaret Noonday, Percy T. Bull, George Hidley Treck, Lori Ann Fioramanti, William A. & Elizabeth Honess.

St. John's had a large company of Girl Guides under the leadership of Mrs. Drackley and Mrs. Jean Richards for 26 years.

It was through the volunteer service of these Guides to the two hospitals that the group known now as "Candy Strippers" was organized.

There were so many families whose last name started with "B" that they became known in the parish as "the busy B's". These were Bascombs, Buckleys, Bullocks, Brideaux', Brasons, Bones, Brescasins, Boileaus, Birkinshaws, Burrys to name a few.

Among the long time choir members there were John Marlowe, Swinburnes, Buckleys, Bullocks, Vardies, Lakes, Tuckett, R.C. Smith, George Evans, Jack Saunders, Tom Faux, Gertie Danby, Ed Brideaux.

Amusing little stories are handed down over the years and never seem to lose their appeal. There was no cloak room in the first church and the men had the habit of taking their hats with them and putting them in a handy place where they could pick them up when the service was over. Dave Dewar, a warden at the time, dropped his hat on the seat in front of him but in walked Isabelle Peycott and sat down--didn't notice Dave's hat! Isabelle was a Moore from Moore's point and members of her family still attend St. John's Church. Dave Dewar was Mabel Stares' father and Mabel and her family attend St. John's church so once in a while when the Moores and the Dewars reminisce it's "remember the time Aunt Isabelle sat on Dave Dewar's hat?"

Organists remembered over the 85 years include Evelyn Robinson, Emily Gable, Edith Johnston, Margaret Boissineau, Mrs. Wall, Cliff Gulley, Len Shippey, Nixon McMillan, Karen Rymal, Donald Justice, and our present organist, Katherine Gartshore.

In the April edition of Algoma Missionary News it mentioned that in 1934, during Rev. Cyril Clarke's incumbency, services at St. John's were broadcast over C.J.I.C. Sunday evenings and the church was filled for practically all services.

On Nov. 30, 1947 on the request of Bishop Wright the mission voted to again become self-supporting.

In Feb. 1948 a new electric Hammond organ valued at \$2,800.00 was installed as a memorial to those who served and was dedicated by the Bishop Easter Sunday, 1949.

On the following Sunday night after Evensong a special Vestry meeting voted to open a New Church building fund.

In an excerpt from an article appearing in the Sault Star following this meeting it is noted that Ed Houston was elected for the second year as People's Warden. By election Mrs. C. Bullock, Mrs. F. Fletcher, G. Brown, W. Cathcart, V. Merrifield, C. Honess, A. Ellis, and O. Johnson will comprise the advisory board for 1950. Appointments to the advisory board by the rector included J. Hunter, J. Littlefield, W. Cudlipp, O. Buchholz, J. Harnum, Mrs. V. Dodd, Mrs. E. Brideaux and Fred Stafford. Ed Houston and Mel Radke will be representatives to General Synod with O. Johnson and C. Honess as substitutes. V. Merrifield was elected envelope secretary.

In Rev. Roy Webb's brief address he thanked L. Shippey, organist, Whitney Cudlipp for his duties at church and memorial hall.

Miss Barbara Bone was given great credit for her excellent leadership of the Girl Guides, and also to Cub leaders J. Hunter, V. Merrifield, Tom Allinson and Dave Irwin.

Mrs. H. Royal acted as accompanist for hymns at the meeting.

However there wasn't a new church built to replace the little Mission church started in 1900. Instead, it was enlarged and rededicated during the ministry of Archdeacon J.S. Smedley.

In an article appearing in the Sault Star in June 26, 1957, it relates what was found in the old cornerstone. Copies of Sault Express and Sault Star, coins including a small five-cent piece dated 1899, a dime of that year and also a large copper: a 50-cent piece dated 1872 and a quarter dated 1900.

The enlarged church was rededicated by Archbishop W.L. Wright.

During the short program at a social in the parish hall following the service the Archbishop mentioned he was looking forward to ringing the new bell, a gift from the city and he hoped that the people would listen to its message and respond to it by attending the services regularly and supporting the church as they should.

During the social hour following the ceremonies, tea was poured by Mrs. Richard Brideaux and Mrs. Fred Boileau, the wardens' wives; Mrs. Barbara Houston and Mrs. Lucy Dearden, senior members of the W.A., Mrs. J. Brescassin was convenor of the tea room.

Among visitors attending the special occasion were Mrs. H.M. Monteith, president of the Diocesan W.A., H.M. Monteith treasurer of the diocese, George Freeman, warden of the new parish of All Saints', and Mrs. W.L. Wright.

The cornerstone items sparked interest in the history of the area and stories surfaced which most people had forgotten about. In a letter from Margaret (Moore) McCauley, Feb. 1, 1956, she attempted to clarify one of the stories.

Mrs. McCauley says "Gary was telling me you (Bill Jones) were telling them of the old cemetery where the church and hall now stand. I thought this might interest you. Gary's (her son) great great grandfather is buried there. I asked my father who is 82 and was born at Moore's Point. He is the oldest white person born in Korah yet living. This is what he told me: "Gary McCauley's great great grandfather was buried and is still there on the site of St. John's Hall. His name was George Moore and he came from the Isle of Man, off the coast of England to take up service with the Hudson Bay Company at Moose Factory and other points. He was usually a mail carrier and sometimes carried dispatches as far as Montreal.

He was married to Emma Goode, a shareholder in Hudson Bay Company. They and part of their family (including Gary's great grandfather) left Moose Factory for Sault Ste. Marie, in 1851. On their way down their canoe upset and most of their possessions were lost including a lot of valuable records.

They took up land at Moore's Point and built a home there in 1852 which was destroyed by fire in late 1930's. The land is still held by Moores. George Moore died in 1865 at Moore's Point and was buried in the cemetery of the Northwest Fur Company on the Fort Creek where St. John's Anglican Church now stands.

When St. John's Hall was built by Rev. Percy Bull, bones were found and we understand he enquired as to what he should do. Some were taken up and put in a box and put in under the staircase in the hall. Others were buried in the cement but we believe Mr. Moore still rests there (as my father enquired at the time) and we feel it is a fitting place as he was a very strong Anglican."

Although many families and individuals have worked faithfully for St. John's over the years it is impossible to list all of them.

Charles and Hannah Bullock were married in St. John's on an August afternoon in 1913 while the annual Sunday School picnic was taking place at Point Aux Pins. Rev. William Hardy Johnson performed the ceremony and it is interesting how he managed to attend both functions on the same day. There were no cars to bring him in from "The Point". He had to travel by row boat coming down through the locks, but he managed to arrive on time. Hannah delighted in telling this story in later years about her wedding at St. John's. They lived to celebrate 60 years of married life, and gave time and money to make St. John's a thriving parish.

Another couple with 60 years of married life in St. John's parish was Mr. and Mrs. Dinsmore. Mrs. Dinsmore is still active and knitting at 93 years.



Charles & Hannah Bullock



Milton & Harriet Dinsmore