

Treasured Recipes



HOLY TRINITY ANGLICAN CHURCH GUILD
MIDDLETON, NOVA SCOTIA

HISTORIC NOTES ON THE PARISH OF WILMOT

ST. ANDREWS - HOLY TRINITY - ALL SAINTS

The Parish of Wilmot had its early foundations laid by the settlers who cleared the land and began the first community in the eighteenth century. The Empire Loyalists strengthened the community in numbers and dedication and the church in Lower Middleton was built.

Bishop Inglis, first Bishop of Nova Scotia which included all British North America, stated that a certain piece of land belonging to a Mr. Chesley was a suitable site for a church and the church was begun in 1787. It was consecrated in 1791.

The Parish of Wilmot at that time was part of the Parish of Cornwallis, where the Rev'd. John Wiswall was then stationed. He was ordained by the Bishop of London in 1764, came to Canada in 1775, became Rector of Wilmot in 1789. The people of Wilmot were not idle. In 1786 they made a request to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel that a Catechist and Schoolmaster be sent to them. In 1787 a loghouse was erected on land belonging to a Mr. William Copley, a Loyalist, and a school was opened which he administered for 50 years.

In 1887, Governor Parr made a grant of 200 pounds for building a church and Mr. Wiswall began a house for himself. In 1789 the Parish was divided and Mr. Wiswall came to the Parish of Wilmot. He described the Parish as consisting of 4 parts: the Mountains, the Plains, the Centre and the Eastern End. In 1799 a bell was donated by William Bayard. Col. Bayard's son, a resident of the West Indies, sent a service of plate and an altar piece from New York. The Parish Register, whose earliest entries are in the handwriting of Mr. Wiswall, gives a great deal of knowledge of the pioneer days. The earliest records are of burials in 1790 and a note that prior in 1789, baptisms of Wilmot and Aylesford were recorded in the Cornwallis Parish book.

In 1797 "Foster Woodbury, Nathaniel Parker and John Eager were appointed to procure materials and contract with a person to build a steeple to the Church, hang the bell and finish the inside work."

The sale of pews augmented the funds of the Church and persons negligent in paying had their pews once again put up for sale.

The Rev'd. Edwin Gilpin was appointed to Aylesford in 1816. His first years in the ministry were served under the Rev'd. John Wiswall, whose daughter was Mr. Gilpin's first wife. He cultivated the land and cared for his gardens, a part of which later became the Rectory grounds.

Later entries in the Register mention the Rev'd. J. H. Church, and the Rev'd. James Robertson who moved to Middleton in 1854. His ministry was one of note in the Parish.

In 1877 the name George Maynard appears on the records. Mr. Dodwell conducted a Parochial School at the Rectory during his rectorship, the students being young ladies of the congregation and the town.

Next mentioned in the records are the Rev'ds. George Dodwell, Thomas Gwillim and John Warner. In 1893 under Mr. Warner, the new Church was built, as was the Rectory and the barn. The trees around the house were also planted by him. In 1906 the Parish Hall was built. In 1846 the Church of St. Andrews in Lawrencetown and in 1959 the Church of All Saints in Kingston were built.