

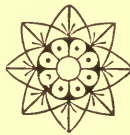
THE
METHODIST CHURCHES
OF
TORONTO.

A History of the Methodist Denomination and its Churches in York
and Toronto, with Biographical Sketches of many
of the Clergy and Laity.

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CHAPTER XIII.

Euclid Avenue Church.



THE inception of Euclid Avenue Church is due to the Primitive Methodists. Some of the older members of Carlton Street Church, inspired with true missionary zeal, who first established a mission on the west side of Spadina Avenue, a little south of Queen Street, which developed into a flourishing Sunday School, viewed with earnest consideration the necessity of the erection of a church farther west.

The land upon which the first church was erected was given by Mr. John Bugg, at the close of the year 1864. The price paid therefor, according to the Rev. John D. Gilbert, who was a witness to the transaction, was \$945.

The building itself was provided largely by the munificence of Mr. John Gardner Walker, of the late firm of R. Walker & Sons, assisted by other members of his own family, and also Thomas Thompson, of the Mammoth House, and others. In June of 1865 the church was dedicated to the worship of God. Mr. J. G. Walker, to whose enterprise and zeal the church chiefly owes its inception, who was a man of most benevolent spirit, and should be held in everlasting remembrance, died a tragic death. He was thrown from a horse near Manchester, England, and run over by an omnibus, sustaining a compound fracture of the leg. This occurred on the 5th day of January, 1866, the year following the opening of the church. He was taken to the Manchester Royal Infirmary, where he lay in great suffering for some months. On May 16th he was removed to Bowden, where it was decided to amputate, but he died on the 20th, and the operation never took place. At the time of his death he was the assistant superintendent of the old Alice Street Primitive Methodist Church. He had been the first superintendent of the Sunday School in Euclid Avenue Church, but resigned it to take the work at Alice Street. While lying in pain at Manchester he gave to Euclid Avenue the first musical instrument it ever possessed.

The original site included about twenty feet of land east of the present church. This twenty feet was bought back by the original donor. The land on which the church parlors now stand was not included in the original gift, but was

bought from Mr. James Henderson in 1880. The original lot was therefore almost precisely ninety-eight feet square.

The first church was a very modest structure of small cost, with a seating capacity for some three hundred people.

The following gentlemen constituted its Trust Board in July of 1866 :

Robert Irving Walker, Thomas Thompson, Daniel McLean, W. Glanville, J. W. Cox, P. Trowern, F. Foster and John Bugg.

Some of those who were formerly members of the Board are dead, among whom are R. I. Walker, Robert Walker, John Bugg, William Pullan, John Bainbridge. Others are still alive. Mr. P. Trowern, of the original Board of Trustees, is still acting as engineer for the asylum, and lives at 20 Argyle Street. Some of the later members of the Board, who have resigned for various reasons, are still living in and around the city. Mr. Robert I. Walker was the latest member of the original Board to resign, and so disappeared the last link which bound the new movement to Carlton Street Church, of which it was a protegee.

The first pastor was the Rev. John Goodman, who remained two years. Rev. W. S. Hughan followed him, and at the close of his pastoral term it was decided to enlarge the building to accommodate the increasing congregation and flourishing Sunday School. In 1871 the enlargement took place, and the church in its improved conditions would hold four hundred and fifty people.

The Rev. Thomas Griffiths, an industrious, faithful and much-loved pastor, occupied the pulpit from 1871 to 1876, when Rev. W. S. Hughan returned for a second term. Then Rev. Robert Cade ministered to the congregation's spiritual wants, from 1877 to 1882. Rev. T. W. Jolliffe then spent a successful term of three years, at the end of which an enlargement of the overcrowded chapel was found to be a necessity.

Then was built the present church, which for odd entrances, old-fashioned properties generally, not excepting the seats, its ungainly gallery, as well as the warm hearts of its congregation, and the genuine friendliness and piety of its members, is unequalled in Toronto.

Revs. James Van Wyck, George Webber, A. M. Phillips, John F. Ockley and E. S. Rowe have been its pastors since the last enlargement.

Of the pastors the first five before the union of 1883 were Primitive Methodists; but Mr. Van Wyck was formerly an Episcopalian Methodist; Mr. Web-

ber was a Bible Christian ; Mr. Phillips a Wesleyan, and Mr. Ockley a Primitive Methodist.

The old parsonage, now used as a church parlor, was built in 1880, in Rev. Dr. Cade's pastorate. The present parsonage was erected on land purchased from Mr. Bainbridge, at the close of Mr. Webber's and the beginning of Mr. Phillips' term, in 1891. The first two pastors occupied a rough-cast cottage on the south side of Robinson Street, east of Palmerston Ave. Mr. Griffiths resided in a building a few doors east, Messrs. Cade, Jolliffe, Van Wyck, and Webber occupied the old parsonage, and Mr. Phillips and the present pastor, Mr. Rowe, are all who have so far resided in the present parsonage.

Among those who specially have done good service in connection with this church are Andrew Smith, the Queen Street saddler, who was many years ago the recording steward ; Thomas Hardy, the boot and shoe merchant, for many years a local preacher and the Treasurer of the Trust Board ; William Dunlop, of Crawford street, an efficient class leader, and a local preacher of ability ; and Dr. Watson, the gentleness of whose kindly heart is unfailing.

Among the present members, George Brown and W. H. Lake have been connected with the Church for many years, and formerly held official relationships ; Mr. Gallier is numbered among the oldest and most respected officers. Mrs. Jackson, of 34 Euclid Avenue, has the distinction of having been longer in connection with the Society than any other of the present members of the Church, and during its earlier history much of its progress was due to the tireless zeal she and her late husband displayed.

Joseph Summerfield, for many years leader of the choir, who took a deep and devoted interest in every department of the work, has earned the respect and gratitude which are his due.

Miss Dixon, was for many years the organist, and, together with Mr. Summerfield as leader, achieved for the choir a reputation now ably sustained by the present excellent choristers.

The Sunday School has always been a prosperous department. Thomas Behan, James Finnemore, and J. D. Main have been among its successful superintendents, and it now enrolls a membership of six hundred scholars.

The infant classes meet in the old parsonage, next to the church, where three rooms have been fitted out for their accommodation.

The present Trustee Board consists of Dr. Watson, J. J. Main, John Dunlop, Fred Price, W. G. Jackson, W. H. Rolston, A. Jennings, A. Stewart, T. B. Stoneham, E. Galliers and James Edwards (1898).

The following lead classes:—Dr. Watson, E. Galliers, Geo. Gardner, James Ivory, W. H. Mundy, John Barkwell, Miss Newton and the pastor (1898).

Rev. Elliott S. Rowe and James Finnemore teach the Bible Classes, while W. R. McGill is President of the Senior Epworth League, and H. B. Andrews and T. H. Lockhart respectively conduct the Intermediate and Junior Leagues.
