
St. James On-the-Lines -- Penetanguishene

SOME POINTS OF INTEREST

This Old Garrison Church of Penetanguishene was started in 1836. Many famous regiments were represented at the military establishment, such as The Royal Berkshires, the Hindustan Regiment, and the Warwickshires. Captain John Moberly, R.N., and Captain James Keating were both instrumental in the building of St. James.

1. The wide aisle was to allow men to march into the Church four abreast.
 2. The pews are of individual construction. It is said that different men of the garrison were detailed to make a pew, which they did in their own way. There is therefore a variety in the styles of the back rests. The front pew-ends are a little more ornate, thus marking the Officers' pews.
 3. The reredos with its fine panelling and carved work was made by a relative of the first Rector, Rev. George Hallen, about the year 1870. The man was a consumptive, and anxious to finish the job, lived in the Church until it was complete. He died a short time afterwards. The reredos is unique for its military style.
 4. One side of the double memorial tablet is to the memory of Lieut. Wm. Glascott who froze to death after being thrown from a cutter while returning from town. The blank side was for his buddy who was expected to die from pneumonia. However, the man recovered, was posted away and never heard of again. You might say that the blank side is in memory of the one who got away.
 5. The model of St. James on display at the back of the church was made by patients of Oak Ridge division of the Ontario Hospital. This was done to commemorate the centenary of St. James in 1936, during the incumbency of the Rev. R. T. C. Dwelly. It is exact in every detail.
 6. In the chancel there is a brass tablet inscribed in Latin. It was placed there by the first Rector, the Reverend George Hallen, in memory of his wife and daughters. The last paragraph, added later, reads in part: "In memory of George Hallen, A.B., Oxon, of this parish for six and thirty years a most worthy priest, who was born in the County of Worcester in England on the 15th day of February 1794 — He fell asleep in the Lord on the 3rd day of September 1882. His body lies in the cemetery, his soul is with the sanctified".
 7. The ornamental hinges on the west doors are hand-wrought by an unknown artisan from the military establishment, Penetanguishene.
 8. The church is known as St. James On-the-Lines. It is usually thought that "On-the-Lines" has reference to the lines, or communication road between Fort York, Toronto, and Penetanguishene.
 9. The Rev. George Hallen's grave can be found to the left of the Church near the vault. It is marked by a large brown stone cross.
 10. At the back of the Church can be found the grave stones of Keating and Captain Moberly.
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11. There are several interesting epitaphs to be found in the cemetery. A notable one is of a child who died of Black Diphtheria, for whom pall bearers could not be found, as they were afraid of contagion. However, some Roman Catholics were found who would accept the duty. The epitaph reads:

Dear Brother, o'er your body here I weep,
One week after with you I sleep.
Four kind Papists here me laid,
The Rev. G. H. the service read.

12. Although St. James holds a great deal of historical interest, and is set in a quaint old cemetery with the oldest stone dating 1831, it is very much alive and active today. Services are held every Sunday at 9.30 a.m. You are welcome to come and worship with us.

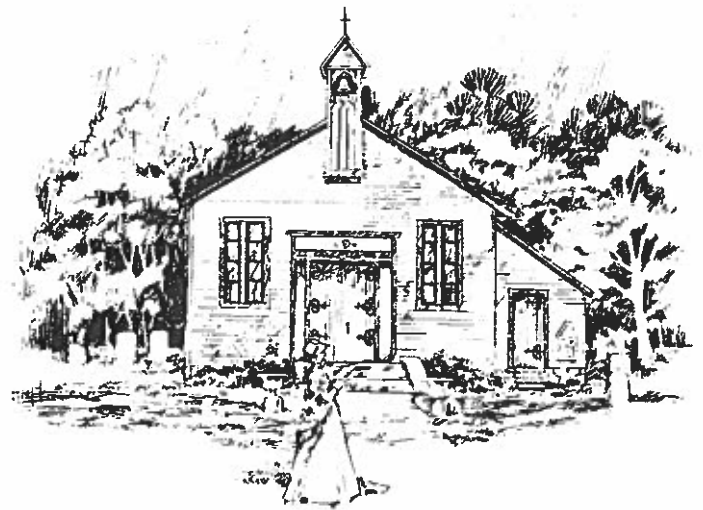
A PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH:

Almighty God, we thank thee for the many years of Christian witness and worship surrounding St. James On-the-Lines. May we continue to reach out in loving service to others so that the love of Christ may bring wholeness to our lives and the life of thy holy Catholic Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

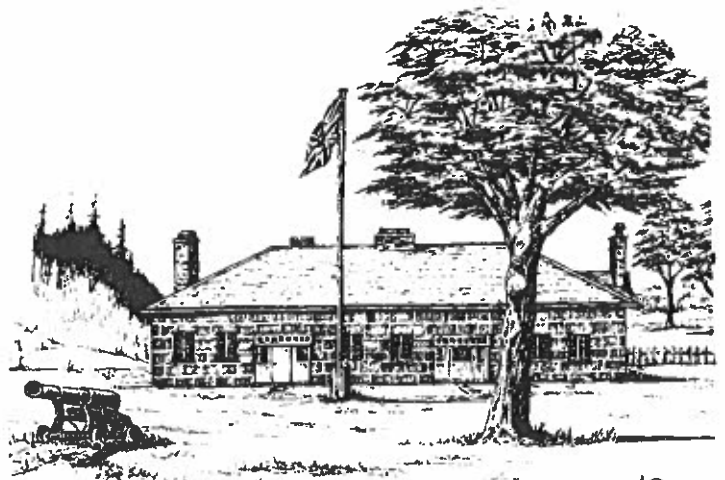
ST. JAMES ON-THE-LINES CHURCH

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ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA
St. James On-the-Lines
1836
Garrison Church of
Penetanguishene



Officers' Quarters, Penetanguishene
