

Recollections of Anne Hughes McCollum, consisting of First draft, original handwriting and a second draft with more detail

Deloro , Ontario July 4th, 1925

Dear Reverend Father;

I have been asked to give some information regarding the history of the old church across the river. I sincerely wish there were some others who knew more than I but if anything I can tell you will be of any use to you, it will please one very much to write it. What is useful you can retain and consign the rest to the waste basket.

My first recollections of the church was when I was about six years of age coming on a visit with my mother to Marmora. We called at a house the name of the owner being Segriff. Father Brennan, whom I knew very well as he was the priest stationed at Belleville where my home was, and Bishop Phalen from Kingston were both there. Father Brennan at that time came to Marmora once a year and made his home at Mr Segriff's while in Marmora. The village at that time being called Ironworks or more often just the Works.

About seventy years ago my mother came to Marmora to live, I being at that time about ten years of age. I remember quite clearly the priests name who was here between the time Father Brennan visits were discontinued and our coming here. His name was Father Begley.

At the time we moved here this parish was the charge of Father Lawlor an uncle of Miss Gertrude Lawlor of Toronto, who figures so prominently in Catholic activities. At that time Mass was celebrated once a month. I was married in the old church and four of my children baptized within its walls. Father Lawlor came to my uncle, Patrick McCollum on Saturday night. The house is the one awarded by Mrs Devine at the time of her death. He took dinner at the home of a Mr Tallon, father of Mrs Louise Shannon, at Marmora Village, there being no parish house until built by Father Murtagh.

Many years ago the land in Marmora Township was suppose to be very rich in iron and a company was formed mainly english. They erected houses and built buildings and what was called blast furnaces for melting the ore and converting it into bars for shipment. One of the officials in said company, judging by his name, Manahan, must have been Irish and Catholic.

Finding the place without a church he set about devising ways and means to build one in which he succeeded, and the little stone church across the river was the fruit of his efforts.

My grandfather, Laughlin Hughes helped to choose the site for both church and cemetery. His son, John Hughes was drowned near where the church stands and his body was one of the first to be buried there. To many of the present generations, it might seem to be a very inconvenient place to erect a church. I have no doubt but it seemed so to the older generation. One reason I heard was given was that the Manahan family wished it built there so that they would have a

longer walk, their place of residence being the house now owned and occupied by Doctor Crawford.

The bridge spanning the river was much nearer the church then than now as it crossed above where the Pearce Mill stands. The priest who succeeded Father Lawlor was Father Davis who, like Father Lawlor, had charge of the priests of Madoc, Hungerford and Marmora. After Father Davis came we had Mass once a month. Father Davis was succeeded by our beloved pastor, Father Murtagh, which marked a new era for us. From his coming here we had weekly Mass. It may not be amiss to give a short history of the first headstone placed in the old cemetery. My father's family came to this country leaving my father and two sisters in Ireland. They came later and shortly afterwards one of the sisters died and was buried in what is now called the Protestant (Common) Cemetery. In those days all denominations were buried there. Shortly afterwards my Father, Patrick Hughes, who was living in Belleville at the time, cut the stone and had it shipped to the first Catholic Cemetery. His sisters body was to be taken and reburied. My father having died it was never done and thus the stone laid for years where it was placed until it was removed to the cemetery of the Sacred Heart Church.

Amongst the first Catholic families settling in this part of the country are the Crawfords, McCollums, Hughes and I think the Callaghans. The Quinns, Sheridans, Flynns, Terrions, Clairmon's and Shannons came I think later but I have no dates to guide one with, but the Shannons, who were my own people, and have heard about the time of their coming here. Some of them coming about 1830. Others of the family coming about the year 1840.

The fame of the iron mines was what attracted the early settlers to this place thinking it was an Eldorado) but they were doomed to disappointment and the work was discontinued and buildings and machinery went to ruin.

Sincerely Yours Anna McCollum (Mrs John McCollum)

Delano July 4th 1925

Dear Rev. Father

I have been asked to give some information regarding the history of the old church across the river I sincerely wish there were some others who knew more than I do but if anything I can tell you will be of any use to you it will please me very much to write it. What is useful you can retain and consign the rest to the waste basket.

My first recollection of the church was when I was about six years of age coming on a visit with my mother to Inman. We called at a house the name of the owner being Seiff. Father Brennan whom I knew very well as he was the Priest stationed at Belleville where my home was ^{and} Bishop Phalen from Kingston was back there. As Father Brennan at that time came to Inman once a year and made his home at Mrs Segreffe's while in Inman. The village at that time being called the Iron Works or more often just "the Works".

About seventy years ago my mother came to Inman to live & being at that time about ten years of age I remember quite clearly the Priest's name who was here between the time Father Brennan's visits were discontinued and our coming here. His name was Father Beely.

At the time we moved here this parish was in charge of Father Lawler an uncle of Miss Gertrude Lawler of Toronto who figures so prominently prominently in Catholic activities. At that time Mass was celebrated once a month I was married in the old church and four of my children baptized within its walls.

Father Lawler came to my uncle Patrick McCallum on Saturday night - He came in the one covered by Mrs. Deane
He took dinner at the home of a Mrs. Helen Satter & Mrs. Louie Shuman
Inman village the house being on French house and built by Father Brennan

at that time of had

Many years ago the land in Marmora township was supposed to be very rich in iron ore. A Company was formed mainly English. They erected houses and built buildings and what was called blast furnaces for smelting the ore and converting it into bars for shipment.

One of the officials in said company judging by his name Monohan must have been Irish and Catholic.

Finding the place without a church he set about devising ways and means to build one in which he succeeded and the little Stone Church across the river was the fruit of his efforts.

My Grandfather Lucylin Hughes helped to choose the site for both Church and Cemetery. His son John Hughes was drowned somewhere near where the church stood. His body was the first to be buried in there.

So many of the present generation it might seem to be a very inconvenient place to erect a church I have no doubt but it seemed so to the older generations. One reason I heard was given was that the Monohan family wished it built there so that they would have a longer walk. This place of residence ^{being} the house now owned and occupied by Dr. Crawford.

The bridge spanning the river was much nearer the Church than there now as it crossed above where the Pine Mill stands.

The Priest who succeeded Father Lawler was Father Davis who like Father Lawler had charge of the parishes of Madoc, Hungryford and Marmora. After Father Davis came we had Mass once a month.

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Father Davis was succeeded by our best beloved proctor
Father Mustagh which marked a new era for us from his
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It may not be amiss to give a short history of the first headstone
placed in the old Cemetery. My father's family came to this
Country leaving my father and two sisters in Ireland. They came
later and shortly afterwards one of the sisters died and
was buried in what is now called the Protestant Cemetery.
In those days all denominations were buried there.

Shortly afterwards my father Patrick Heykes who was living
in Belleville at the time cut the stone and had it shipped
to the first Catholic Cemetery. His sister's body was to be taken
up and reburied. My father having died it was never
done and the stone laid for years where it was placed
until it was removed to the Cemetery of the Sacred Heart
Church.

Amongst the first Catholic families settling in this part
of the Country are the Crowfords, the McCollums, the Heykes
and I think the Collohaus

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The fame of the iron mines was what attracted the
early settlers to this place thinking it an Eldorado but
they were doomed to disappointment and the work was
discontinued and buildings and machinery went to ruin

Sincerely yours Anna McCollum

(Mrs John A McCollum)

Historical notes from Mrs. John McCallum re the old church and cemetery in Marmora.

first letter(undated)

My first recollection of any one connected with the Catholic church in Marmora was when I was a child of about seven years of age came with my mother on a visit to her relations. The only place or at least the only house I remember being in was that of an acquaintance by the name of Seagriff as it was called then I have since heard it as Seagrive which I do not think correct. Why that particular place stands out so clearly in my mind is for the reason that whilst there I was introduced to his Grace Bishop Phalin who was stationed in Kingston. The priest who was with him was Father Brennan of Belleville whom I was quite familiar with There were no resident priest there at that time. Father Brennan of Belleville came once each year, his mode of travel being on horseback. Whilst here he married those who were ready and baptized many babies. Unfortunately there were some of his parishioners who would not wait for his visitations and were married by some travelling minister. I really know nothing personally of the very early history of the church other than what I have heard from an aunt of mine who was living in Marmora at the time the iron works was started. (1823) There were a number of people came from England and some from Ireland attracted no doubt by the prospect of fortunes made from the iron deposits which were very promising.

dates of
arrived by
travelling
priests
in
Marmora.

Amongst the officials of the new company which had been formed were two whose names I heard quite often mentioned. Hayes and Monohan. The latter was Irish and Catholic and I have no doubt but was quick to see the needs of the Catholic settlers, and as I have heard it said took an active part financially and otherwise in the building of the little stone church across the river. The new company bought up large tracts of land and I feel sure it was from them the land was bought on which the little church was erected. (a side note: with of course the sanction of the Bishop as it may have been he who advised its erected.)

founding of
the Marmora
iron works

p.3 I came with my mother from Belleville about seveny six years ago(1856) and made our home in Marmora and many times I heard a Father Begley spoken of who I think had left Marmora very shortly before we came.

The priest who was in Marmora when we came was Father Lawlor who made his home in Hungerford and visited Madoc and Marmora or in other words had three parished under his charge. In summer he came on Horseback, in winter with horse and cutter. The collection in those days was a cent...and many did not even give that. He(the priest) came on Saturday night to Marmora. Staid at the house of one of the parishioners in the country. After mass on Sunday he took breakfast in the village and then left for his long trip home.

irregularity
of church was

Mass was celebrated once each month . About sixty years ago Father Lawlor was succeeded by a young Canadian priest who was born

in Kingston whose name was Rev. Thomas Davis and we still had monthly mass. (p.4) He made his home in Madoc visiting the three parishes as did Father Lawler. Its about fifty-seven years ago since Father Davis succeeded in building a very nice brick church.

.... Later there was Father Murtagh as curate. Eventually the parishes were given resident priests. I do not know what priest had charge of Hungerford parish. Father Davis remained in Madoc and Father Murtagh assigned to Marmora.

I forget how long it was before that time that mass was celebrated every Sunday in Marmora (p.5) Until the presbytery was built and furnished, Father Murtagh made his home with Mrs. Hughes parents Mr. and Mrs. O'Neil.

Before there was a church in Marmora all demontations buried their dead in what is called the protestant cemetery. After the little church across the river was built, the ground surrounding it was set apart and used for a time but for some reason was abandoned. I think because of the dangerous drive as the ----- being so full of rocks and at least sixty years ago a portion of land from the Hughes farm was given and considered very suitable.

on the
Cemetery

From the time the second church was built and the ground got in shape it has been the permanent cemetery.

You of course know of its this being burned and the third church built during the time Father Murtagh had charge.

(p.6) The third church, presbtry and separate school were built whilst Father Murtagh was in charge and I trust- they may remain for many many years as a monument to his energy and financial ability.....

I think that is all I can think of I may have made mistakes in the past of the priests stationed in Marmora at different times but that is really not vital so I will leave the task to your able brains to sift the chaff from the wheat.

Sincere yours
Anne McCallum

Nov. 23

(p.1) After the large envelope was closed, I thought as regards the old cemetery across the river I had not been quite correct as I thought over occurrences which occurred that I remember very well. For instance when I was about six years old an uncle of mine was drowned and I remember his funeral and a remark that was made afterwards that he was the first one buried in the ground near the old church. It must be one hundred and some years since it was built and my uncle being the first burial goes to show that the people still used the cemetery on the hill in the village which had been in use for many years. There were a few buried around the old church after my uncle's burial so it was abandoned and the cemetery located as I said before on the portion of the Hughes farm.

(John Hughes)
the old
Cemetery

My first son was baptized in the old church. ...which goes to show it was before that time that the second church was built (1875)
Thids

There is stone someplace in the cemetery now in use it was made for my fathers sister and shipped to the old demetery across the river as the intention was to have her body taken from the first cemetery and buried near the old stone church across the river (I believe she is referring to Margaret Hughes) It was never done. My father had it (Patrick Hughes) cut in 1827 I think and shipped from Belleville I remember quite weel hearing the cost of sending it which was thirty dollars.

I think Father Murtagh had it brought from across the river and and that it is someplace in the cemetery should you come actross it any time I think it would be worth putting it in a conspicuous place. There is not the slightest chance of my finding her grave but I would like to have it where it could be seen. If its not there I do not know where it is. It must have been sent up very shortly after the old stone church was built within a very few years at least.

the old
Hughes stone

further notes of July 4, 1925

My grandfather, Lockyhlin Hughes, helped to choose the site for both church and cemetery. His son, John Hughes, was drowned someplace near where the church stood. His body was the first to be buried in there.

To many of the present generation it might seem to be a very inconvenient place to erect a church I have no doubt but it seemed so to the older generation. One reason I heard was given was that the Monohan family wished it built there so that they would have a longer walk. Their place of residence being the house now owned and occupied by Dr. Crawford.

why the old
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across
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The bridge spanning the river was much nearer the church then than now as it crossed above where the ----- mill stands....

It may not be amiss to give a short history of the first headstone placed in the old cemetery. My father's family came to this country leaving my father and two sister in Ireland. They came later and shortly afterwords one of the sisters died (Margaret Hughes) and was buried in what is now called the Protestant cemetery. In those days all denominations were buried there.

Hughes
grave stone

Shortly afterwards my father Patrick Hughes who was living in Belleville at the time cut the stone and had it shipped to the first Catholic cemetery. His sisters body was to be taken up and re-buried. My father having died it was never done and the stone laid for years were it was placed until it was removed to the cemetery of the Sacred Heart church (this is the stone which is now over by the old stone church monument)

Amongst the first Catholic families settling in this part of the country are the Crawfords, the McCallums, the Hughes and I think the Callahans. The Quins, Sheridans, Flynns, Terrions, Clarmonts and Shannons came I think later but I have no notes to guide on with any but the Shannons who were my own people and

first
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p. 4. of historical from Mrs. John McCallum

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The fame of the iron mines was what attracted the early settlers to the place thinking it as Eldorado but they were doomed to disappointment and the work was discontinued and buildings and machinery went to ruin.