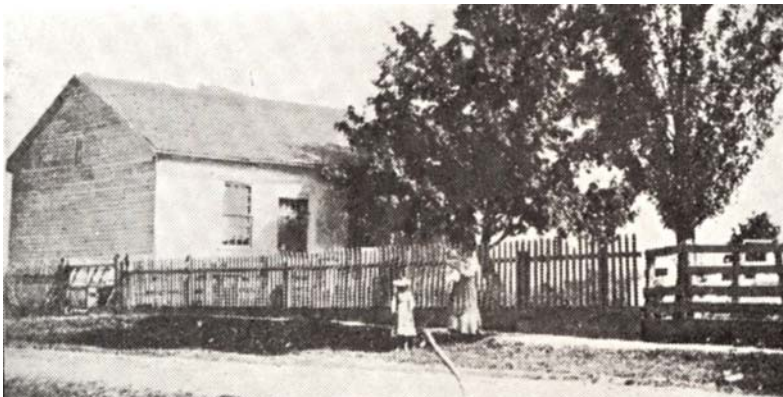


Egmondville United Church

Location: Kippen Road, Egmondville, Ontario

Year built: 1879

THE FIRST MINISTER IN THESE parts was assigned in 1835 to the townships of Goderich, Stanley and Tuckersmith. The settlers of Stanley and Tuckersmith were “a praying people” and they had petitioned for a minister at the public meeting to organize municipal government in Tuckersmith Township: “We, the undernamed inhabitants of the Townships of Stanley and Tuckersmith, on the London Road, Huron Tract, being desirous of having a preacher of the gospel from the Church of Scotland settled among us, hereby agree and bind ourselves to contribute to his support to the best of our abilities. Witness our hands this 5th January, 1835.”



The church in Egmondville built on land donated by Constant Van Egmond for a church and burial ground.

Rev. William Proudfoot and Rev. Christie of London travelled to Tuckersmith, arriving at the home of Anthony Van Egmond, 18 miles from Goderich, on January 27, 1835. They called on Robert Scott, John Govenlock and Mr. Dickson at Roxboro. The next day, 70 people gathered at the Van

Egmond house for a service and two children were baptized. Constant Van Egmond brought some people to and from the service in two sleighs.

Rev. Proudfoot reported, favourably: “there could be a service at Van Egmond’s [at Ross, as Egmondville was then called] every 3rd Sunday morning, then on the London Road 5 miles away [at Brucefield] in the afternoon.” As a result of this report, Rev. Alexander McKenzie was settled in 1835 as pastor of the congregation in Goderich, Stanley and Tuckersmith Townships.

It would appear that the parish was too large for effective work. In 1844, the people of Stanley and Tuckersmith decided to stand apart from Goderich. They issued a call to Rev. William Graham who arrived in January of 1845. Rev. Graham was a minister of the Free Church persuasion, as were most of the people of the district.

Seaforth was bush in those days and there were only two other Presbyterian ministers from Tuckersmith to Galt. Rev. Graham wrote: “there was greater



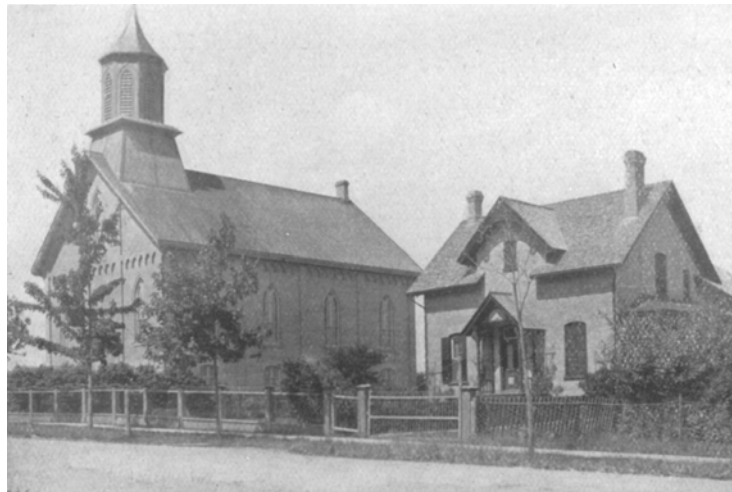
Rev. William Graham
Pastor 1845-1874

zeal in journeying to Zion then than when roads got better and times more prosperous, many of them travelling seven, eight, and nine miles on foot. Others who lived at greater distance sometimes came in on Saturday and remained with friends over Sabbath.... Money was so scarce and articles of clothing so hard to obtain that many of the people walked barefoot to church, carrying their shoes and stockings over their shoulders until they got in sight of the tabernacle.”

In 1849, some of the members living nearest Brucefield formed their own

congregation. About this time, Constant Van Egmond donated land for a church and burying ground. A small church was put up entirely by volunteer labour and materials. The church was opened on July 21, 1850.

The enlarged church of 1861 was described as “a plain but spacious edifice capable of accommodating an audience of 450-500 people. In 1862, there were 286 church members. This church was closed in 1879 and the brick church was built on the Kippen Road in Egmondville. A manse was built in 1882. The Women’s Missionary Society was formed in 1888. The Egmondville Sabbath School was begun in the early 1830s and was conducted by pioneer settlers. The infant class was formed in 1875. The church had a Young People’s Society, a Mission Circle, Mission Band and a Choir.



The Church and manse, c. 1900