Morrisburg: St. Lawrence Lutheran Church

Parish register of baptisms, marriages, burials of the Williamsburg Lutheran Congregation (later St. John's), including notes on the history of the parish, 1826-1840.

(M.G. 9, B 7-39, volume 1)

Property

of the Lutheran Congregation

on

the Front,

at Williamsburgh,

to be surrendered, when the Pastor of

this Congregation leaves the place, into

the hands of the presiding Church Officer,

in trust for the said Congregation.

Williamsburgh Augt 1826.

Presented to the Cong. by Wagener

Property of the Lutheran Congregation.

Ecclesiastical Register

of

the Lutheran Congregation

worshipping

on the Front" or the so called

" St. George's Church.

Book the first.

Commenced August 1826.

by H. Hayunga

Pastor.

A few

Facts from the History of the Lutheran Church in the Eastern Districts in the Province of Upper Canada.

In 1784 - the first settlements were made in the Eastern District in the townships along the banks of the St Lawrence. The first settlers were all soldiers of the Royal Regt. The western part of the Eastern Dist. was populated with germans U.E. Loyalists - the Eastern part of it with Scotch U.E. Loyalists from the new States of America. Government was very kind to these settlers at first. Every settler received a lot of land containing of 200 acres - with provisions - from the Government free of expence - to enable them to get along in the wilderness. The townships of Matilda - and Williamsburg - in the county of Dundas - and the townships of Osnabruck and Cornwall - in the county of Stormont - were mostly peopled by Germans - the majority of whom belonged nominally - at least - to the Lutheran Church. For a long time after these settlements in Upp Canada, they retained their language - Customs &c &c known the Late short war of 1812 - great changes took place - among them. The English Language - Engl. Customs - English Religion - was introduced among them.

1/st Matilda - There was once a Lutheran Congregation and Church, which was attended to by the Revd J. Swartfeger - Myers - & Meyandt - successively. But since 1814 - Cong & Church - fell into decay - and nearly all the Members have joined either the Methodists or Church of England.

2/d Williamsburg - the Lutheran Cong & Church is still flourishing - altho it has passed thro many a hard struggle - It had to weather out many a severe storm & many a severe Opp in property publick & property private. If they lost one member - their congregation prospered not only by it - in point of number but also in point of property & hence were doubly strengthened & they awakened. By persecution - not only the mind & heart but also the property of the Convert is drawn away from it

3/d Osnabruck - there existed once a flourishing Lutheran Cong & union - Church, which was attended to by the Revd Swartfeger - Myers & Meyandt successively - but since 1814 the Cong has fallen into decay - & the Church - taken by the Episcopalians - who afterwards were driven out by the Presbyterians, & it was built upon their Glebe.

This Lutheran Cong - being scattered to four Regions - married to Presbyterian & Episcopalian Congs by its members - in the 5th Concession - there is still a small respectable number of faithful Lutherans - who were gathered together by the Revd H. Meyandt.

4/th Cornwall - the Lutherans - being scattered to for 40 years in general the troubl. Church of that Congregation by their number. The Majority of the Congregation have been now Lutherans. There were Materials sufficient to hand of to good settlers &c to have formed a respectable Lutheran [illegible]