

THE PARISH OF ST. ANDREW

1825 - 1977

A SHORT HISTORY

REV. D.S. GILLIS

CHANCERY OFFICE
91 WATERLOO STREET
SAINT JOHN, NEW BRUNSWICK
CANADA
E2L 3P9

April 22nd., 1977

Rev. D. S. Gillis, P. P.,
St. Andrew's Parish,
P. O. Box 222,
ST. ANDREW'S, N. B.
EOG 2X0

Dear Father Gillis:-

I wish to thank you most
sincerely for the copy of your history of
the Parish of St. Andrew.

I have read it with great
interest and realise you have put a lot of
work into this and produced a document of
great value. It records well the beginnings
and growth of one of the first parishes in
the Province and for this reason it has
special importance and is indeed precious.


The Church is most grateful
to you also for this excellent recording of
its early life in N. B. and its growth during
these years.

It will be carefully filed
in our Archives.

Many thanks and God bless you,
Father.

With kindest best wishes
always,

Very sincerely,

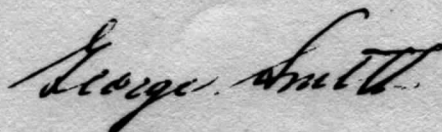

A. J. Gilbert,
Bishop of Saint John.

AJG/bg

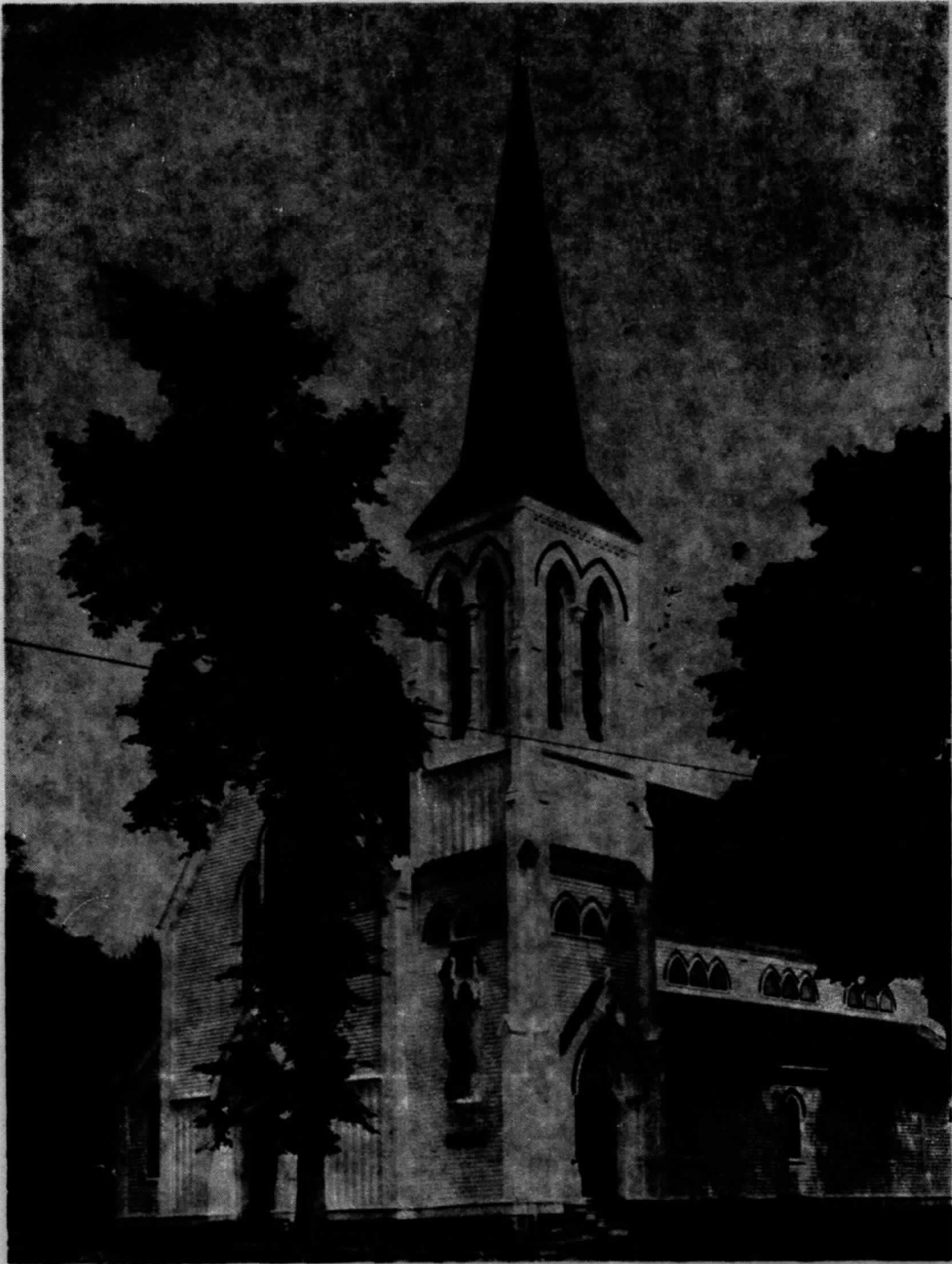
Charlotte County Historical Society, Inc.

**Certificate of Honourable Mention 1978
for
Achievement in Historical Research**

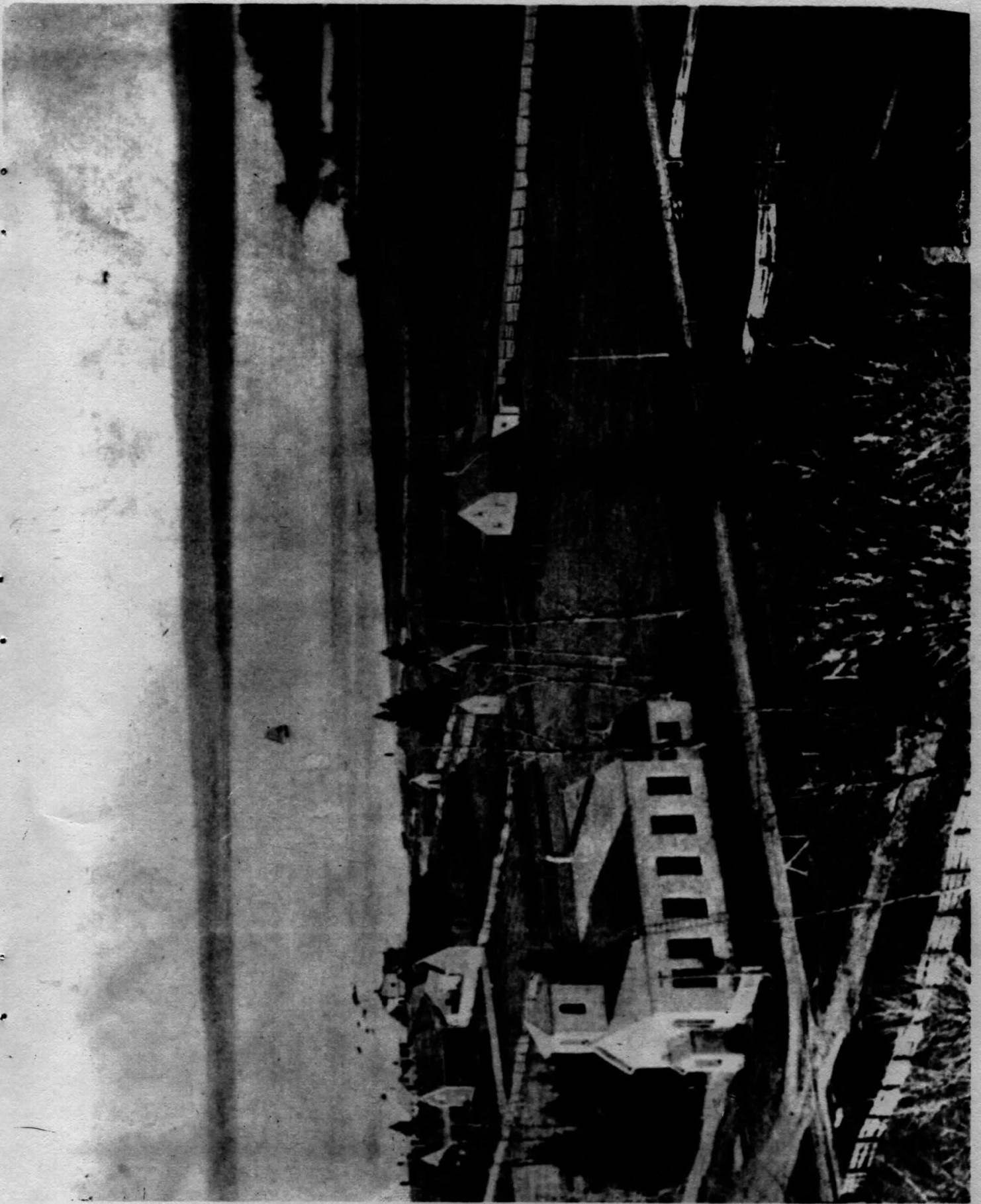
In consideration of his careful research and excellent dissertation, "The Parish of St. Andrew, 1825 - 1977: A Short History", our society is pleased to honour the Reverend Father D. S. Gillis by awarding him this Certificate of Honourable Mention for Achievement in Historical Research and for contributing to the Recorded History of Charlotte County.



George Smith, President
Charlotte County Historical
Society, Incorporated
16 November, 1978
St. Andrews, N. B.



St. Andrew's Parish Church
St. Andrews, N. B.



The Parish of St. Andrew.

A. History.

The First Missionaries.

The history of the Church in Canada begins with the first missionaries, who accompanied the explorers, Cartier and Champlain. The first Christian Outpost in this part of Canada, was established by Bishop Vallier, who travelled from Quebec, the only established diocese in North America, to a place called Meductic, about 10 miles below Woodstock, N.B. He set up the Mission at Fort Meductic in 1685, and left the Recollet Fathers, a branch of the Franciscans, to administer the Mission. The first Catholic Church in Maritime Canada was erected in 1717 at this Mission. The Corner Stone of this church was excavated in 1890, and is now preserved in the Provincial Museum in Saint John. A facsimile of the Stone is embedded in a Cairn erected by the late Dr. Clarence Webster of Shediac, on Number 2 Highway above the old Fort Meductic. The inscription reads: "To God, most good and great, in honor of St. John the Baptist, the Maliseets erected this Church A.D. 1717, while Jean Loyard of the Society of Jesus was procurator of the Mission."

The Missionaries of Fort Meductic travelled by rivers, lakes and portage, to minister to the Indians of St. Croix and Penobscot. We may ask, did these Missionaries also minister to the Indians and the White families, who were settled in the area which is now St. Andrews? We speak of white settlers in this area at that time. It is not commonly known that the section of the American coast which includes Passamaquoddy and the St. Croix river was first granted to Portugese settlers. On March 13th, 1521, a hundred years before Plymouth, Joam Alvarez Fegundez was given a royal commission by King Manuel, granting him the lands and islands, "which he went to discover, and has now certified to us by trustworthy testimony that he

did discover." (Royal Society of Canada, 1890, 127 sq.) From the description of the territory granted, it is clear that it included the land afterwards granted to DeMonts by the King of France, and called Acadia. Evidence of the Portuguese presence in these parts may be found in the place names in use today. "Baya Fonda", or Deep Bay is our Bay of Fundy. It is said to mean not deep water, but deep distance into the land. "Canada", which means the "narrow way". "D'Anta Costa" is now called the Island of Anticosti.

We know that Champlain and DeMonts spent the Winter of 1604-5 on Dochet's Island in the St. Croix river. He did not set up a permanent settlement. They were unprepared for the rigors of a Canadian Winter, and as a consequence, they suffered greatly, with great loss of life. The record of that expedition has the following: "Pierre du Gau, Sieur de Monts, a French nobleman, brought to this land a group of French men of noble birth, artisans, and soldiers, and settled them on St. Croix Island (now known as Dochet's Island), in June 1604. Members of the party included Nicholas Aubrey a Catholic Priest, and as well a Huguenot pastor." We can assume that Mass was celebrated on this Island during the stay of the explorers. This island belongs to the United States.

It is of interest to note that the first Mass offered in what is now the Province of New Brunswick, was celebrated on Caton's Island, on the Saint John River, about 10 miles above Westfield. The celebrant was Father Masse S.J., and the date was 1611. A Plaque commemorating this settlement is erected on the shore of the Island. Caton's Island belonged to Mr. Howard Robinson of Saint John, who built a beautiful residence there. The property then was sold to Mrs. Gilbert, (Oland) of Halifax. About ten years ago, Mrs. Gilbert gave the Island to the Holy Cross Fathers, with the commission they maintain it in suitable condition. The Holy Cross Fathers built a Chapel on the Island. Mass is still offered on the spot where it was first offered over 360 years ago.

Records of the labors of these early missionaries may be found in the Archives of the Archdiocese of Quebec. It suffices for our purpose to note that the Gospel was preached in this community many years before a

canonically established parish was erected. The origin of the name St. Andrews is uncertain. Its use antedates the coming of the Loyalists. The Indian tradition as given by Chief Francis Joseph at the Boundary Commission inquiry of 1796 was that the French, on coming to Passamaquoddy, "erected a cross upon St. Andrews Point on St. Andrews Day, November 30th., celebrated Mass there, and gave it the name St. Andrews". (Kilby, 114, Acad. II, 184 sq.)

Canonical erection of St. Andrews Parish

The first Catholic Church built in St. Andrews, was erected in 1825, as a result of a visit by Father Mauricette of Quebec, who visited St. Andrews in September 1822. After the celebration of Mass in the home of Henry O'Neill, (this house is still standing on Water Street; a Plaque commemorating the first Mass was placed on the house by St. Andrews Civic Trust), a meeting was held, and Thomas Dunn, Peter Doran, Henry O'Neill, and John Lockary were named trustees of the proposed Church. A collection was taken up, and 30 Pounds was obtained.

Father Mauricette then returned to Quebec, with the intention of returning to St. Andrews. He did not return. His visit in 1822 was his first and only visit. The congregation, however, went ahead with the work and, during the year 1824, erected a building 28 x 40 feet, on a piece of land donated by John Dunn, the Collector at the Port of St. Andrews. This lot is listed as Lot 8, in Block Q of Buckley's Division, at the corner of Parr and Mary Street.

The building, which was small and unpretentious, was completed on the outside in the year mentioned. During the following year, 1825, the interior of the Church was finished, much to the joy of the people. The little Church bore this inscription: "Erected to the honor and Glory of the Only True and Living God. A.D. 1825".

It is interesting to note that a copy of the original contract is preserved in the Parish Archives. One is impressed with the solemn and legal terminology whereby the contracting parties entered into this agreement to build a Church. Whether or not the contract was drawn up by a lawyer, we do not know. However we feel that we should enter this contract into the records of the parish history, as a testimonial of the integrity and thoroughness of the good people of that time.

Contract for building the First Church.

"Be it remembered that on the ninth day of October, in the year of Our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Twenty-Four (1824), it is agreed between Thomas Dunn, Henry O'Neill, and Thomas Boyle, all of St. Andrews, in the County of Charlotte, and the Province of New Brunswick; and Joshua Bradford, and John McCurdy, both of St. Andrews in the County of Charlotte and the Province of New Brunswick aforesaid- in the manner and form as follows, vizt: The said Joshua Bradford and John McCurdy, for the consideration herein after mentioned, do for themselves, their heirs, executors and administrators, covenant with the said Thomas Dunn, Henry O'Neill and Thomas Boyle, their executors, administrators and assigns, that they, the said Joshua Bradford and John McCurdy, and their assigns, shall and will, within space of eleven days, after the date hereof, in a good and workmanlike manner, frame and raise a certain building, intended for a Chapel." (For a more particular description of which, reference may be had in the plans of the said building.)

In consideration whereof, the said Thomas Dunn, Henry O'Neill, and Thomas Boyle, do for themselves, their executors, administrators, covenant with the said Joshua Bradford, and John McCurdy, their executors administrators and assigns, will and truly to pay unto the said Joshua Bradford and John McCurdy, their executors administrators and assigns, the sum of Thirty-Six Dollars, being equal in value to Nine Pounds Twelve Shillings of current money of the Province of New Brunswick, to be paid as soon as the same shall be framed and raised.

An also, that the said Thomas Dunn, Henry O'Neill and Thomas Boyle, their executors, administrators and assigns, shall and will, at their own proper expense, find and provide timber and other material necessary for the making and the building of the said Frame; and also that the said Thomas Dunn, Henry O'Neill and Thomas Boyle, do furnish, at their own expense, what RUM or other refreshments, that may be wanted to raise the said building.

And for the performance of all and every one of the said articles and agreements above mentioned, the said Thomas Dunn, Henry O'Neill and Thomas Boyle, and Joshua Bradford and John McCurdy, do hereby bind themselves, their

Contract continued

executors, administrators and assigns, each to the other in the penal sum of Thirty Pounds, firmly be these presents.

In witness whereof, we have herento set our hands and seals this ninth day of October, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Twenty-Four.

Signed, sealed and
delivered in the
presence of James
Boyle

Signed:
Joshua Bradford,
John McCurdy,
Thomas Dunn,
Henry O'Neill,
Thomas Boyle.

As was noted above, the parish of St. Andrews was erected under the jurisdiction of the diocese of Quebec. There was no diocese in the Maritime Canada until 1829, when the See of Charlottetown, P.E.I. was erected under the title of St. Dunstan. The diocese of New Brunswick was erected in 1842, when a Bishop was appointed to Fredericton, whose territory was the whole of the Province of New Brunswick. The first Bishop was Most Rev. William Dollard, who had served for many years in Arichat, Cape Breton, and in the Miramichi. He built a cathedral Church in Fredericton, and named it after the Basilica of Charlottetown, St. Dunstan. In 1852, the diocese was transferred to Saint John. Bishop Dollard died in Fredericton, and is buried there. His episcopal chair and a beautiful painting of the crucifixion, given him from France at the time of his consecration, are still preserved at Fredericton.

Thus we see that the parish of St. Andrews is one of the oldest in the province. At the time of its erection, its territory extended from the Maine Boarder to Saint John; it included the islands of Passamaquoddy Bay, and also inland to the communities known as Rollingdam and Flume Ridge. The church at Rollingdam was built in 1842. The church at Flume Ridge build in 1884. The Church at Campobello was erected in 1911. These missions are now served from other parishes. Since the erection of St. Andrews Parish, other parishes have been erected in what was formerly the area of St. Andrews Parish jurisdiction. St. Stephen's Church in Milltown was built in 1838. St. George

Catholic Church was established in 1861. The parish of Milltown was divided in 1887, and the new parish of Holy Rosary in St. Stephen was erected.

The first Catholic Rectory was built in 1825. This house was built on the opposite Corner Lot across Parr Street, being Lot 4 of Block P, bounded by Parr and Mary Street.

There is no record in parish archives that there was a Catholic School. But the following item from the St. Stephen paper, dated November 11th, 1875, would indicate that there was a Catholic School prior to that date. The item is as follows: "The Roman Catholic School at St. Andrews is closed, and the children who attended it, are now going to the public schools."

In 1903, a portion of the frame of the old church was removed and used in the building of a parish hall and gymnasium. This building was called the Andraeleo Hall. The name is a composite of the names Andrew and Leo. The first the title of the parish, and the second the name of the Pontiff Pope Leo XIII. In 1904 the hall was officially opened. It served the parish until 1913. The hall was sold in 1914, and today it forms part of the building on King Street owned by the Royal Canadian Legion. The rear portion of this building, used as a stage, was formerly part of the first Catholic Church in St. Andrews.

The first parish priest of the parish was Rev. John Cummins. Since his time until the present, (1977), there have been 25 parish priests. The following is the list of incumbents:

Rev. John Cummins,	1825-1836	Rev. W.J. Foley,	1873-1877
Rev. Richard Verecker,	1836-1839	Rev. Ed. Doyle,	1877-1880
Rev. James Quinn,	1839-1844	Rt. Rev. J.M. O'Flaherty,	1880-1913
Rev. Wm. McDonald,	1844-1848	Rev. Dr. A.W. Meahan,	1913-1917
Rev. Wm. Alyward,	1848-1849	Rev. D.S. O'Keefe,	1917-1927
Rev. Jas. McDevitt,	1849-1852	Rt. Rev. M. O'Brien	1927-1948
Rev. Jas. Quinn	1852-1854	Rev. J.C. Floyd,	1948-1953
Rev. Andrews Barron	1854-1857	Rev. R.B. MacGillivery,	1953-1955
Rev. Edmund Doyle,	1857-1860	Rev. R.J. Coughlan,	1955-1965
Rev. Richard Verecker,	1860-1872	Rev. J.P. Quinn,	1965-1971
Rev. Edmund Doyle,	1872-1873	Rev. D.S. Gillis,	1971-

Besides the resident pastors there were numerous priests who served as assistants in St. Andrews over the years.

The first record of baptism in the parish is that of E.J. Carney, under the date of December 23rd, 1827. The first marriage recorded was the marriage of Robert McEveney and Elizabeth Thompson, who were married by Father Cummins on Christmas Day, December 25th, 1827. The witnesses were Cornelius Conley, Henry O'Neill, Bernard Sharkey and Charles McKenna. The first burial was that of Catherine Cavanaugh, dated March 25th, 1825.

The first cemetery was situated on Lot 4 of Block Q of the Buckley Division, being on the corner lot of Mary Street and Montague Street, and adjacent to the lot on which the Church was built. It is of interest to note that this old cemetery, which served from 1825 until 1859, when the cemetery on the Saint John Road was established, is under consideration by the St. Andrews Civic Trust, as a project to re-build and beautify, in keeping with the desire to preserve buildings and sites of historic interest.

Under the pastorate of Rev. James McDevitt, later the pastor of St. Dunstan's Fredericton for 40 years, eleven feet were added to the length of the church, and a spire was erected. It is related that the first bell used in the church came as a present from John Wilson of Chamcook, which he promised to give the trustees, in case he won a pending lawsuit between himself and the comptroller of the town.

A parish is made up of people, human beings like ourselves, whose life and destiny are conditioned by the circumstances of the times in which they lived. The first parishioners were for the most part immigrants or children of immigrants, who came to Canada in the first part of the 19th century, seeking freedom and opportunity offered to them by a new country, Canada. The parish records are a list of the vital statistics of these heroic people, whose births, marriages, and deaths are recorded. The names of these people, have for the most part disappeared from the community. However, the descendants of Henry O'Neill are still living in the St. Andrews Parish and community. As one group of parishioners succeed another, the same life of the parish goes on. The same sacrifice, the same sacraments, the same Gospel, are ministered to the people. Like the human body, the cells change and re-change, but the same spirit and soul give identity to the person. The Mystical Christ, in the

same way is present today, as He was when the Church was first established. The continuity of the parish, is like the continuity of the Church of which it is a part. It continues to grow and spread, but it grows and spreads in the context of people. We today are the people of God in the community of the Church.

Erection of present Church, 1885.

(The following is taken from the Parish Register)

After 60 years of use the old church on Parr Street was in need of major repair. Besides, the size of the Church was inadequate for a growing congregation. Having consulted with leading members of the congregation, and having consulted also with the Bishop of Saint John, Bishop John Sweeney, decision was made to build a better and larger church.

Rev. John O'Flaherty, the pastor proceeded to procure a suitable site for the new church. He was fortunate enough to get a lot 164 feet square, bounded on one side by King Street, and on the other by Parr Street. Initial steps towards building the new church commenced in March, 1885, by hauling thereto the stone for the foundation, every stone of which was quarried and hauled free of cost, through the kindness of a number of parishioners, with whom were associated friends of other communions.

The following month the excavation for the foundation was commenced by Mr. Peter Carroll, under contract, and finished up in good shape. Immediately afterward, a contract was made with Mr. Levi Handy, for building the foundation, which he built solidly, and well, and in a satisfactory manner. The excavation for the erection of the foundation cost about \$800.00. Meanwhile plans and specifications were prepared by G. Ernest Fairweather, esq. Architect of Saint John, upon which tenders were asked, and of those submitted that of Mr. Andrew Myles of Portland, Saint John was accepted. The tender and contract included the furnishing of material, erection of the frame, and the exterior finish of the building, the overall cost of which was about \$3,500.00. The contract was completed and taken off the contractor's hands in December 1885. Work was then suspended for the Winter.

In August of 1886, operations were again commenced with a view of completion of the church. This part of the work, which embraced the interior finishing of the building, painting, etc., was conditionally provided for in the first contract with Mr. Myles. With the help of sub-contractors, Mr. Levi Handy the plasterer, Mr. Pullen of Saint John the painter, Messrs Scott, Lawton and Love of Saint John the pews, the church was completed. The total cost to date was \$6,500.00.

Architecture of the New Church.

(The following item is found in the Parish Records.)

The church is of the modern Gothic style of architecture, and with its tower and spire, presents a very attractive exterior. From the ground to the apex of the cross surmounting the spire is 100 feet. The ground space occupied by the main church is 50 x 70 feet. The vestry is 17 x 28 feet. The church stands near the Western side of the lot, with its front facing King Street, from which through the main door, entrance is made into the sacred edifice. Entry is also had through a side door, leading to a passage and another door in the tower. On entering the church, and taking a survey thereof, one is favorably impressed with its fine proportions, and neat and airy appearance, there being an entire absence of that deep religious gloom, so often spoken of in places of religious worship.

The ceiling of the aisles and nave are finished in wood paneling, (stained in imitation of satin wood), with cherry trimmings. The pews, wainscoting, and sanctuary railing, are of native ash, oil finished. From the floor to the angle of the ceiling is 40 feet; the aisles are 11 feet wide, and the nave 28 feet. The vestry is entered by doors to the right and left of the sanctuary rails, and also by a door leading from the east aisle. The altar and organ are those that were in the old church. The organ stands in the organ gallery, situated immediately inside and above the main doorway, entrance to which is made by a door and stairway leading from the tower.

The pews are very neat and comfortable. They number 56, with floor room for about as many more.

was celebrated, the Bishop assisting. He was attended by Rev. Father Doyle of Milltown and Rev. Father O'Dowd of Eastport, Maine.

Rev. Patrick Bradley, (a native of St. Andrews), was the celebrant. He was at that time the pastor of Cap Pelé, Westmorland Co. The Deacon was Rev. Wm. Dollard of St. Stephen; the Sub Deacon was Rev. Father Lavery of St. George. The Deacon of the Mass Father Dollard preached the dedicatory sermon, after which the candidates for confirmation - neatly dressed boys and girls - were presented by the pastor to His Lordship, who conferred upon them the Sacrament of Confirmation.

The musical part of the service was most effectively rendered by Miss Coholan soprano, Miss Nellie Coholan alto, Mr. J.V. Lantalum tenor, and Mr. P.W. Lantalum bass, assisting. Seldom has a church in St. Andrews been filled with such melodious strains, as those who were present at the dedicatory service heard this morning. The singers, as well as Miss Gussie Gallagher, who presided at the organ, and whose music was most admirable, were from Saint John. The Mass sung was "Farmer's". The offeratory was the "O Salutaris".

The exercises of the day will be brought to a close this evening at 7 P.M. by the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. The pastor of the church is to be congratulated on the successful completion of what was thought by some to be impossible of achievement - the erection and completion of a church in this town. But Father O'Flaherty has a stout heart, and has blotted out of his vocabulary the word "fail". He feels proud of his neat little church, and justly so, and it is hoped that he will be enabled to carry out as successfully all his undertakings.

The Parish since 1885

One regrets that, with the exception of the records of baptisms, marriages, and deaths, there is little on record of the parish since the building of the new Church in 1885. With the succession of pastors, no doubt there were many events of interest which should have been recorded.

In accordance with the practice of the church, the building was privately blessed. The Church like the old one is under the patronage of St. Andrew, and will be formally dedicated by Bishop Sweeney during the year. The Catholics of St. Andrews are to be congratulated upon now having a neat and comfortable church, reflecting credit upon their worthy priest Father O'Flaherty, the members of the building committee, and the congregation, to the united effort of all, is due the fine building which is an ornament to the town of St. Andrews.

The Dedication of the New Church

(The following is taken from the paper the Bay Pilot, dated October 11th, 1886)

The Roman Catholic Church at St. Andrews was filled to its utmost capacity today, on the occasion of its dedication by His Lordship the Rt. Rev. John Sweeney, D.D., Bishop of Saint John. All the denominations of the town were represented. The church was tastefully decorated; the pillars were twined with evergreens, and the altar was covered with flowers in pots and bouquets most artistically arranged.

The dedicatory service began at 9:30 o'clock, when the church door was opened, and out thereof emerged a procession headed by The Rev. Father Dollard of St. Stephen, bearing a processional cross. Immediately following came the candidates for confirmation, fifty in number, walking in pairs; then the chanters and clergy in robes, followed by Bishop Sweeney in cope and mitre. At the conclusion of the introductory prayers at the door, the procession in the order named, marched around the outside of the sacred edifice, the Bishop sprinkling the outer walls with Holy Water, the chanters reciting the "Miserere". On returning to the main door, the procession marched up the principal aisle to the altar chanting the Litany of the Saints. The Bishop then stood up, and solemnly blessed the church and altar, reciting the invocation as follows: "That Thou mayest diegn to purify and bless this Church and altar, erected to Thine honor, under the patronage of St. Andrew". The prayers were continued and completed by a procession around the interior of the church, the Bishop sprinkling the walls with Holy Water, after which the Mass proper to the day

It seems that the stained glass windows were installed after 1900, as the dates of those remembered are about that time. There are ten memorial windows in the main church. They are listed as memorials to Elizabeth O'Neill, Mary Healy, Ann Mahar, Donald and Catherine Kennedy, James Coakley, Charles and Mary Bradley. There is one to a McAlinden family. The last three are for Anne Madden, William and Patrick O'Neill, and John Regan. The large Triple Window on the West side of the Church, over the Choir, was installed by the O'Neill family in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Alphonsus O'Neill and Dr. Francis O'Neill.

On the right of the main door of the church, there is a statue of the Patron of the parish, St. Andrew. The following note is found in the parish register:

"On Tuesday the first day of April 1902, the Rev. Father Lavery of Holy Rosary Parish, St. Stephen, did solemnly bless a statue of St. Andrew, patron of the parish, and this church, and that the same was thereafter unveiled by the donor, Mr. Jules Thebaud of Paris, France."

It is said that Mr. Thebaud was a French Aristocrat, a Count, who lived in St. Andrews at the turn of the century.

Another item of record, is the installation of a marble altar railing in 1925. This gift was made by Lady Shaughnessey in memory of her husband Sir George Thomas Shaughnessey, a former president of the Canadian Pacific Railway, who established a residence in St. Andrews called Fort Tipperrary.

The Hon. Mrs. Rene Redmond and her sister The Hon. Marguerite Shaughnessey, were the donors of the organ used in the church. The original electric organ donated by them was replaced by Mrs. Norman Mais, with the present Hammond Organ, which serves so adequately our present needs.

The medallions of the Evangelists on the Sanctuary wall of the Church, are a memorial to Dr. Hugh P. O'Neill, who served this community for so many years as physician. He was beloved and respected by all. The memorial was donated by his widow, Mrs. Chonita O'Neill in 1969. The four Evangelists are symbolized on the Medallions, as four living creatures

mentioned by St. John in the Book of Revelation. The Lion, a symbol of St. Mark; the Ox, a symbol of St. Matthew; the Man, who represents St. Luke the beloved physician; the Eagle, represents St. John, whose lofty writings soar right to the Heavens before the Throne of God.

Mr. Daniel Coakley, a life-long resident of St. Andrews parish, was also a most generous benefactor. His bequests are evident in the many improvements in the church, and also in the trust fund, which will contribute substantial assistance to the parish for years to come.

The Byrne family has also been associated with the parish for many years. Memorials to this worthy family are evident in the Church, in the presence of the new altar, ambo, and the pulpit, as well as the Holy Water Fount.

The altar which was removed from the Church in recent years, was a gift of Rev. Dr. A.W. Meehan, given in memory of his parents in 1916. This altar replaced the original altar on the Church, which was burned by fire in the sanctuary.

It may be of interest to record in this brief history of our parish, the establishment of a Perpetual Care Trust Fund for the upkeep of St. Andrews Cemetery. By means of this Trust Fund, there will be enough financial resources to maintain the cemetery in proper and fitting condition, over the years ahead. This fund was started in 1972, and the very generous response of the parishioners, and also of many former parishioners who have their beloved interred here, is a source of encouragement to the pastor of the parish.

Vocations from the parish

It is impossible to list the names of the many families who made up the parish over the years. There are a few names still with us, that go back to the beginning of the parish, such as, the Doons, the O'Hallorans, the O'Neills, the Scullions.

From the native families of the parish, there have been several vocations to the priesthood. The most prominent is Most Rev. Timothy Casey. He was born at Flume Ridge in 1862, and baptized there. He was pastor of St. Dunstan's in Fredericton for several years, and from there he was appointed Bishop of Saint John. In 1912 he became the Archbishop of Vancouver, B.C. Other priests were Rev. Patric Bradley, and his brother Ref. Francis Bradley. Both of these priests served in our diocese. Mons. Francis O'Neill, a native of this parish served the Church in other fields. Rev. Barry O'Neill, C.S.C., was baptized in the parish, although he was raised in St. George. He was a well known writer, and also a Professor at Notre Dame University. Other priests from St. Andrews were: Rt. Rev. J.R. McCarthy, Rev. Paul Scullion, C.S.S.R. and Rev. Miles P. Howland. Rt. Rev. F.W. Lockery, had his roots in this parish, although he was brought up in St. Stephen. His grandfather was one of the original trustees of the first parish.

Parish Societies

The members of a parish are called the "People of God". As such, they have an integral part to play in the orderly and efficient function of the parish, especially in the carrying out of the Gospel precepts of Works of Mercy. This function is fulfilled by what are called Parish Societies. In this way, the people take an active part in the work of the Gospel.

The first society organized in our parish, was the Altar Society, which dates back many years. Its function was to assist the Pastor in providing the means for proper and dignified Liturgical Worship. This Society no longer exists, but the many works over many years are still evident.

The Catholic Women's League was established in this parish in 1933. For over forty years, the women of the parish have contributed most generously to the welfare of the parish, the community, and to the Church at large, in every phase of the works of mercy, both corporal and spiritual. It is the only Society in the parish today. May they prosper.

The Holy Name Society was established in 1934, under Father O'Brien. It was very active for many years in the works of Catholic Action. It contributed greatly to promote an image of Christian presence in local, provincial, and national projects.

St. Andrews is a resort town, attracting many tourists from many places on this continent, and also from abroad. Our guest book in the Church, has the names of visitors from most States of the United States, and from every Province of Canada. There are also names of visitors from some European cities, and even from far off Australia. We are conscious of our role as hosts to these visitors who are our guests. To see the large number of tourists in our congregation every Summer, gives one the feeling of the universality of the Church. They all find the sacramental Presence of their God in their Church. Our Faith and Love are expanded to embrace them all.

We of the present congregation, are the parish today. May our service to parish and community be worthy of record, to be gratefully recalled by future generations.

"Ut Deus nos benedicat semper."

Notes

cf. P. 3 1: M.N. Cockburn, writing in the Quarterly Acadiensis, Vol. VII, No. 3, of July 1907, narrates some of the early history of St. Andrews. Under the heading The First Churches of St. Andrews, he says: "All evidence points to a very early recognition of Christianity by the inhabitants. If the tradition related in the writings of Dr. Ganong be true, that the French erected a Cross on St. Andrews Point on St. Andrews Day, years before 1796, then one of the strongest emblems of our belief in the story of the Crucifixion, was displayed in St. Andrews at an early date. There seems to be strong evidence of the fact, that a Church was in existence when the Loyalists landed. In his testimony before the Boundary Commission, Alexander Hodges stated that until 1784, the Indians had a Cross standing on St. Andrews Point, and also a place of worship, and a burying ground. He understood, that the Cross was cut down by some people of St. Andrews in a drunken frolic. It is believed that the Church referred to stood on site of the C.P.R. Station".

From this testimony, we must conclude, that a Roman Catholic Church was in existence in St. Andrews after 1685, when the Missionaries came here to evangelize the Indians. The Missionaries, Father Simon and Father Loyard built churches in other places where there served the Indians, notably at Meductic and Aukpaque, an Indian site about five miles above Fredericton, known today as Springhill.

cf. P. 7 2: David Russell Jack, Honorary Editor of the Acadiensis, published in Saint John, N.B., made a list of the Epitaphs in the Old Methodist Graveyard near the Greenock Church, and also in the Roman Catholic Graveyard on Parr Street, St. Andrews. This list may be found in the same Volume of Acadiensis noted above, on page 197. The following is the list of inscriptions as found in the Roman Catholic Cemetery.

Burials in Old Roman Catholic CemeteryLot 4 - Block 0 - Buckley Division

<u>Name</u>	<u>Deceased</u>	<u>Age</u>
BARRETT, Catherine (wife of John Barrett)	17/11,1853	60 yrs
Christine, daughter,	10/3,1851	21 "
BUTLER, Mary Ellen	17/9,1850	2 yrs, 11 m.
Robert (children of James and Mary Ann Butler)	20/9,1850	1 " , 4 "
BRADLEY, Eliza (daughter of Denis and Eliza Bradley)	1/3,1851	2 " , 9 days
CURTIN, James	6/2,1853	58 "
CAVANAGH, Andrew	30/3,1835	48 "
Catherine, wife,	15/3/1825	31 "
CONLEY, Catherine (daughter of Cornelius and Honora Conley)	13/4,1836	5 "
CRONIN, Michael	27/3,1865	80 "
Mary Gibson, wife,	Sept. 1854	52 "
Mary Ann, daughter,	? 1850	23 "
DENSMORE, William	14/5,1862	34 "
Mary, wife,	13/1,1857	33 "
Eliza, daughter	23/7,1860	Infant
DONWORTH, Robert	18/9,1836	36 yrs
Michael, brother,	5/1,1838	30 "
DUNN, Jane (wife of Dennis Dunn)	8/1,1841	21 "
Theresa R. (daughter of Dennis and Julia Dunn)	3/4/,1853	3 "

<u>Name</u>	<u>Deceased</u>	<u>Age</u>
FITZSIMONS, James	25/3,1838	1 yr, 8 months
Susan	27/9,1845	19 yrs
FITZSIMONS, Bernard	17/8,1849	79 "
Ann, wife,	9/11,1858	66 "
HALEY, Mary	20/9,1849	7 "
(also Eliza, Ellen, Michael, Martin)	???	??
HARLEY (or HAILEY) Timothy F.	17/3,1839	8 "
Mary	14/5,1839	2 ", 12 days
Dan	18/9,1840	9 months, 16 days
Amelia	8/9,1845	1 yr, 11 months
(children of Timothy F. Harley)		
HALEY, James	31/8,1851	42 "
HUGHES, Johnny	10/2,1867	1 yr, 6 months
(son of Michael and Catherine Hughes)		
HUGHES, Patrick	???	??
Mary	???	27 "
JUDGE, Charles	21/9,1855	85 "
Alice Campbell, wife,	14/3,1850	84 "
Edmund)	???	14 months
John) grandchildren		7 yrs, 5 months
KENNEDY, Catherine Janet	7/7,1858	10 months
Donald Alex	24/5,1862	7 days
(children of Angus and Margaret Kennedy)		
KERNEY, Michael	1/2,1858	51 yrs
LOCHARY, Hugonis	17/2,1852	16 "
LOCHARY, Rose	13/2,1842	49 "
(wife of John Lochary)		
John (son of John and Rose)	? 1827	13 months, 18 days
McMULLON, Patrick	21/6,1864	74 yrs
Catherine, wife,	2/6,1835	28 "
McFARLANE, John	20/8,1864	79 "
MURPHY, James	5/8,1853	37 "

<u>Name</u>	<u>Deceased</u>	<u>Age</u>
McGARRY, Ann (wife of Bernard McGarry)	1/3, 1841	52 yrs
MACSTAY, Frances	16/9, 1845	20 "
McGRAW, Michael	15/6, 1854	47 "
McLAUGHLIN, James	18/7, 1858	34 "
McDONALD, Francis	14/4, 1857	54 "
Ellen, wife,	14/9, 1866	63 "
Thomas) sons	16/8, 1862	24 "
Francis)	11/3, 1858	11 "
McCARTHY, John	15/2, 1858	25 "
McGUIGAN, Sarah (wife of John McGuigan)	14/1, 1856	43 "
Francis) sons	14/6, 1834	8 month
Peter)	22/8, 1844	2 "
OWEN, John H. (son of John and Mary Owen)	3/7, 1859	7 yrs
O'DONOGHUE, John	14/5, 1857	62 "
Elizabeth, wife,	21/6, 1862	52 "
Mary Ann	13/8, 1849	19 "
Joseph	8/1, 1857	??
O'NEIL, Anne (wife of Lawrence O'Neil)	22/6, 1859	39 "
O'BRIEN, William (also five of his children)	1/3, 1838	61 "
O'BRIEN, Daniel	12/1, 1848	8 months
Robert	4/7, 1861	2 yrs, 3 months
(children of Simeon and Catherine O'Brien)		
QUINN, Mary Jane (daughter of Colour Sgt. Thomas Quinn)	8/4, 1866	2 " , 7 "
QUINN, Catherine (wife of John Quinn)	8/2, 1859	28 "
Thomas, son,	8/2, 1859	???

<u>Name</u>	<u>Deceased</u>	<u>Age</u>
QUAINE, Mary (wife of Thomas Quaine ?)	1/1,1848	52 yrs
SHARKY, Bernard	15/12,1855	55 "
Margaret, daughter,	5/12,1853	21 "
SWIFT, Sarah (wife of George Swift)	10/8,1864	70 "
Henry) sons	11/5,1860	??
Hugh)	2/6,1863	??
SWIFT, George	4/12,1832	37 "
SCULLION, Thomas	15/7,1885	55 "
Isabella) daughters	28/2,1854	22 "
Sarah)	30/3,1855	19 "
SHERLOCK, John (son of Wm. and Margaret Sherlock)	24/11,1853	21 "

BURIAL CEMETERY CLOSED IN 1859

From recordings of D.R. Jack, 13th April, 1903

REVEREND JOHN COMMINS

cf. P.6 3: Reverend John Commins was born June 17, 1798, in the parish of Borris, County Carlow, Ireland. He received clerical tonsure at Quebec, June 2, 1824 (AAQ, Registre des insinuations eccl. vol. I, fol. 83v), the record of which, translated, reads as follows: "..... we have promoted to Clerical Tonsure our beloved John Commins of Kildare, born June 17, 1798, in the parish of Borris of the County of Carlow, from and in the legitimate marriage of Simon Commins and Catherine Ryan".

The date of his arrival in Quebec is not known. He studied in the seminary of St. Roch and was ordained priest by Bishop Panet of Quebec, in the Cathedral of Quebec, on January 8, 1826. Already on December 23, 1825, Bishop Panet had named him assistant of Rev. P. McMahon at Saint John, N.B., and he left Quebec January 16, 1826, for Saint John (Panet to McMahon, AAQ, Registre des Lettres, v. 12: 413 and 428). In a letter of September 24, 1827, to Bishop McEachern (Auxiliary of Bishop Panet in Charlottetown, which was not yet a diocese), Bishop Panet asked that Father Commins be named to St. Andrews, N.B. (Ibid. v. 13: 226).

Records of the Diocese of Saint John show that Father Commins was at the Cathedral in May of 1827 and that before the end of that year he was in St. Andrews as first pastor. In 1838 he became the first pastor of St. Stephen's Parish in Milltown. He died July 29, 1849, in Milltown, where he was buried in the Catholic cemetery.

Later Commins correspondence contains a brief description of Father Commins:

"Your father (Uncle John) [a nephew of Father Commins] was at Shepody or near there when a priest asked some one to serve Mass and when he found his name was Commins he had much to say about his uncle. Father Commins was a learned man, wonderful preacher, tall, dark skinned, hair soft and curling, and when he and Dr. Thompson - this was the father of old Dr. Thompson - walked out together they were much admired."

In his last will and testament Father Commins directed that his property in St. Andrews, unless its sale were necessary, "be appropriated to the Church, for a glebe for ever in the said place". Among his personal property were a library consisting of Greek, Latin and French works, and a portrait of Daniel O'Connell.

His death was reported in the St. Croix Courier of Saturday, August 4, 1849:

"At Milltown, St. Stephen, on the 29th ultimate, after a lingering illness which he bore with resignation to the Divine Will, the Reverend John Commins, Parish Priest, in the 52nd year of his age. Strongly attached to the doctrines of the Church of Rome, which he maintained and expressed, he had the happy skill to do it without offense, and his loss is one deeply mourned by members of other denominations as by his own people. In his former parish of St. Andrews, where he resided for many years, he will be long remembered as one whose home and hand were ever open to the stranger, the poor and the afflicted".