

Early History Of Churchville

A Church in Churchville

The first settler in the district now known as Churchville was John Robertson the pioneer who came from the Highlands of Scotland, and who settled in the forest in 1784. He was followed a couple of years later by Patrick Finner who made his home on the mountain, which in honor of his nationality was and is called Irish Mountain.

William Duff was another early settler and he was followed by the MacKenzies and MacLellans.

In their attempt to make a home for themselves the settlers cut down and burned the trees of the forest. Between the stumps of these trees they planted potatoes, oats and wheat. These crops grew well and the oats and wheat were harvested by the sickle. After the crop was cut it was then threshed by the flail. If they were not lucky enough to have the luxury of a horse they had to carry it on their backs to Grants Mill at Millstream.

The settlers urged John Robertson to build a grist mill. This, a year later was done and his son William was the first miller.

A saw mill was also built by Colin Robertson so the district was known as Robertson's Mills.

Time rolled on and about 1846 a church was erected for services. These services were conducted in both Gaelic and English. Of course they were all Prebyterians. They were so proud of their church that they changed the name of the district to Churchville in 1848.

In 1853 a church was also built in Springville which was really more central than the one at Churchville. After some argument the church at Churchville was torn down in 1858 and for about 31 years the residents of Churchville attended church at Springville.

The Churchville Hall was built about 1889 and from the start church services were held every second Sunday in the Hall. This practice continued for over seventy years.

The pastor for 23 years from 1866 to 1889 was Rev. A. Maclean Sinclair. He was followed by Rev. John Calder for two years and by Rev. James Sinclair for 18 years.