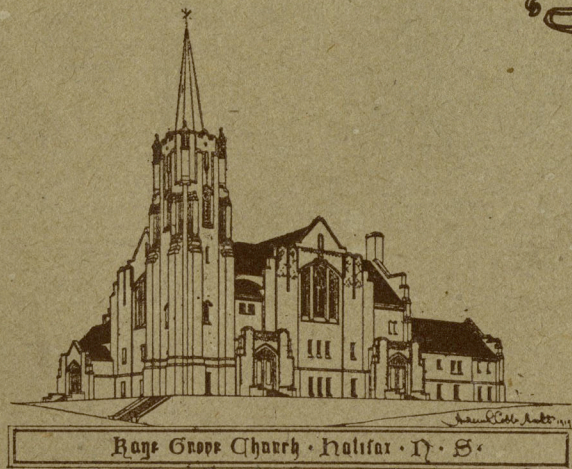


# A COMMON SORROW AND A COMMON CONCERN



Being a brief statement of the Halifax Disaster  
and the affairs, past and present of  
Kaye-Grove Church.



REV. C. J. CROWDIS, M. A.  
HALIFAX

NEW CHURCH NOW UNDER ERECTION

THIS booklet with its appeal to the friends of the Kaye-Grove Congregation and other interested parties is issued under the direction, and with the heartiest approval of the undersigned, who are the members of the joint Commission appointed by the Halifax Presbytery and the Halifax District of the Nova Scotia Conference to deal with the situation growing out of the Halifax Disaster, as far as it relates to the above Congregation.

J. A. CLARK, D. D.

R. W. ROSS, D. D.

A. L. FRASER

For the Halifax Presbytery

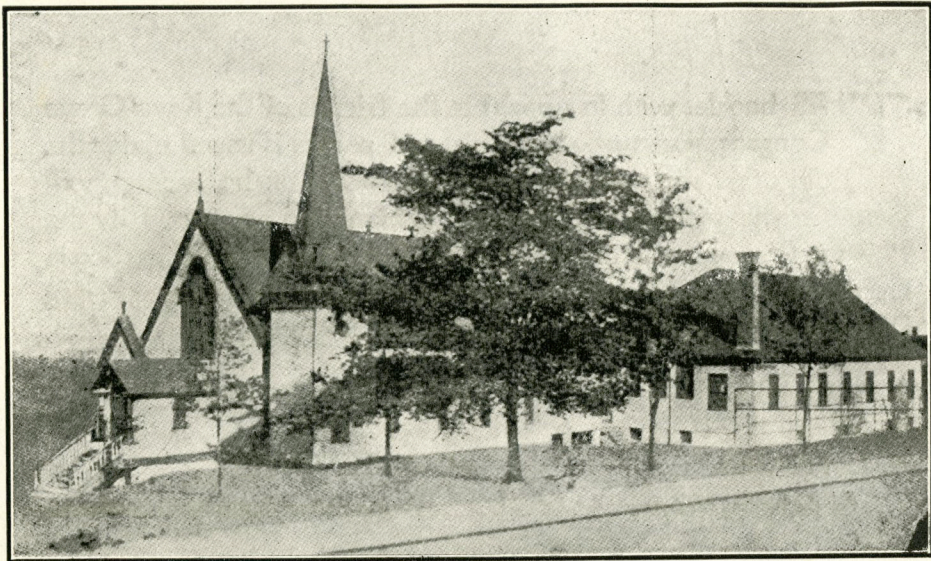
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For the Halifax District N. S. Conference





GROVE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AND HALL BEFORE THE DISASTER





GROVE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AND HALL AFTER THE DISASTER



## A Common Sorrow and a Common Concern



DECEMBER the 6th, 1917, dawned auspiciously on Halifax. The necessities of war had lent an impetus to her activities, and the proud part she played in the great world struggle gave her a just sense of importance. Her's was a harbor to which ships came and from which ships and men went forth.

And such a day! Autumn surely trailed her departing glory in a morning as September like as any. The sun shone and no cloud dimmed her rays save as the morning advanced a slight haziness resembling that of smoke. As this deepened, men, women and little children were seen hurrying to the water front or looking in that direction; and as jets of flame and spiral puffs of smoke shot heavenward it was hurriedly told that two ships, the one a Belgian Relief, outward bound on a mission of mercy, the other heavily laden with deadly TNT had collided. Few knew the fact, practically none the danger, save the crew, and these sought safety in flight. And then with awful suddenness followed what will ever be known as "THE HALIFAX DISASTER."

The collision of these ships was on the Harbor side of the Narrows and directly opposite that section of Halifax known as Richmond. This district was afterwards known as the DEVASTATED AREA.



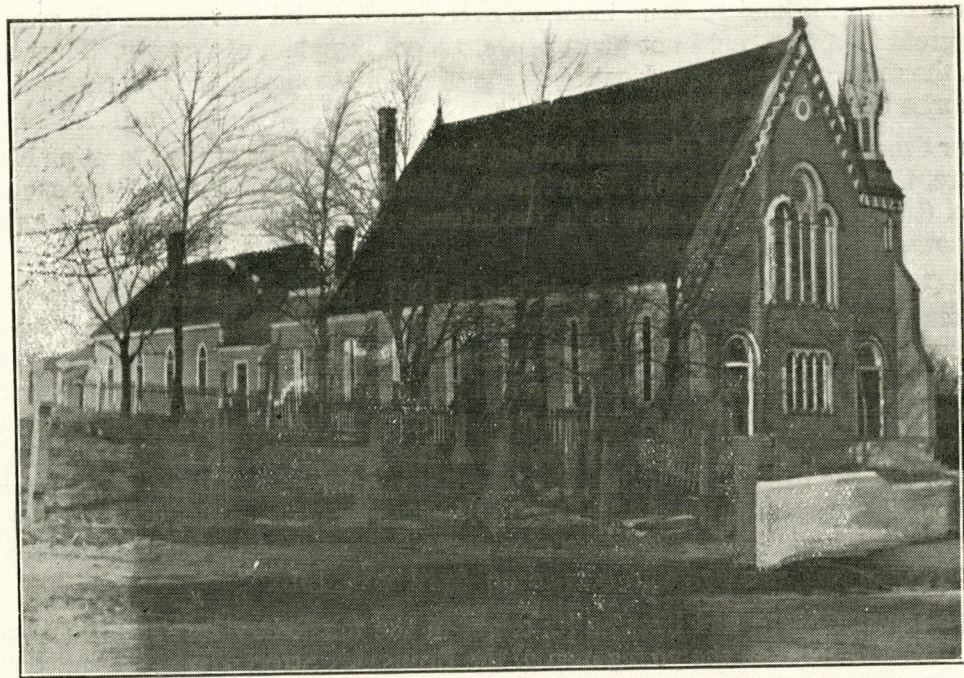
Richmond with land to spare knew no over-crowding and was spared the greater city's greater problems. She could not boast of wealth nor complain of poverty. Here dwelt the artisan, the railroad man, the independent man of moderate means, the home-maker, the man of enterprise building the city's newer part.

Four denominations had churches located here. In the order of their location Northward they were, Grove, (Presbyterian), Kaye Street, (Methodist), St. Mark's, (Episcopal) and St. Joseph's, (Catholic). This booklet is in the interest of the former now carrying on a united work known as the Kaye-Grove.

The Grove congregation had its beginning in 1861 when workers from St. Matthew's and St. Andrew's started a Sunday School in the Railway station at Richmond. Mrs. Mary Anderson of devoted memory, Mr. W. G. Pender, who now worships with us, and Colonel J. J. Bremner were members of this group. In 1863 a hall was built which, at the first, was used for day school and by the different denominations on Sunday. On October 13th, 1872, the church was opened for public worship quite, if not altogether, free from debt. In 1894, under the devoted ministry of the late Rev. J. F. Dustan, the church was enlarged and beautified and a new and commodious hall opened on April 10th, 1910. The church again underwent extensive repairs, improvements and additions including a pipe organ, imported seats, lighting fixtures, graded hardwood floors and was again in service on April 2nd, 1916.

Kaye Street Church had likewise its origin in the missionary zeal of devoted men and women. On this occasion the young men of the Brunswick Street Wesleyan church started a mission. The Quarterly Board shortly after appointed a Missionary, Mr. Silas James, who





KAYE STREET METHODIST CHURCH AND HALL BEFORE THE DISASTER





KAYE STREET METHODIST CHURCH RUINS AFTER THE DISASTER



subsequently entered the regular ministry. In 1868 the Church was erected and the pulpit supplied by lay preachers. In 1870 the Rev. William Sargeant, the first ordained minister was appointed. In 1873 under the excellent ministry of the Rev. Robert McArthur, the Church was improved and later a commodious hall built.

Like its companion the Grove, Kaye Street Church underwent extensive improvements and additions during 1915 and 1916 and had entered a new era of prosperity under the energetic and efficient ministry of the Rev. W. J. W. Swetnam, who at the beginning was associated in the pastorate of the Union Church.

The evening of December 6th, 1917, saw Richmond a waste,—her homes a ruin and her people gone. Where her Churches and Halls, Manse and Parsonage had been were now piles of wreckage or smouldering ash heaps. From the two congregations 239 were either dead or marked for death, while others must bear in their bodies or on their hearts the tokens of suffering and sorrow.

For months during that dreary winter only those who had pressing material interests at stake lived at Richmond. Gradually, however, the temporary abode assumed respectable proportions for family use and with these in true pioneer fashion came the Kaye-Grove temporary Church. The people, who had shared a common sorrow, now faced a common service together and proudly boast the opening of the first place of worship in the Devastated Area. St. Joseph's Catholic followed with a similar structure later.



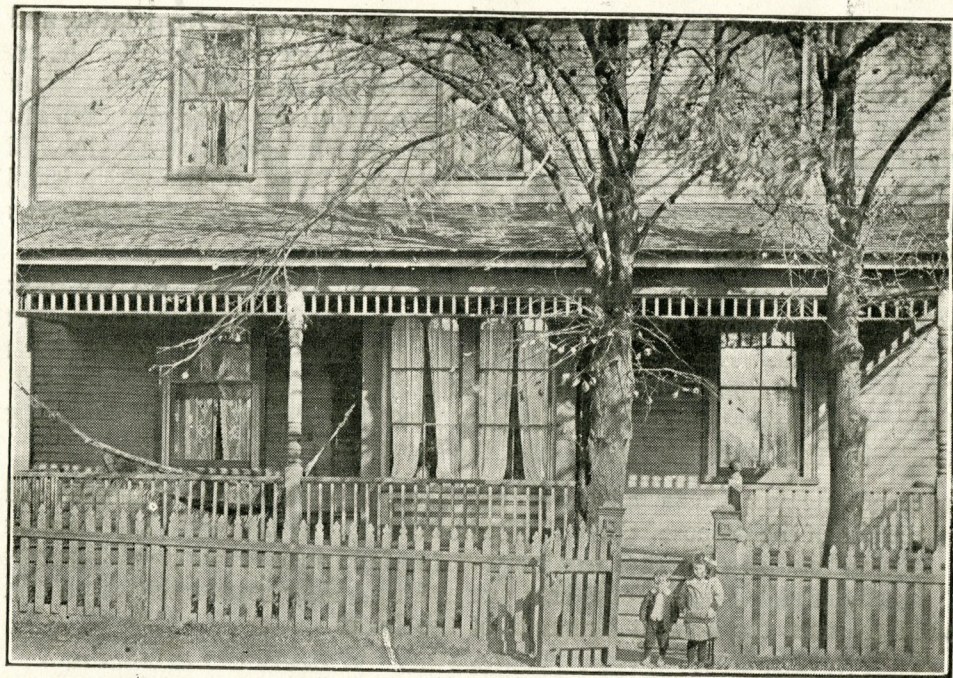
It must be remembered that this meant in a time of sore stress the formulating and accepting of terms of union by the individual congregations, the approval of these by the parent denominations and the erection of the church. Remember, too, that in the East these churches were pioneers in the matter of union. There was no precedent nor was any inquired after. And these terms of union remain to the present without change. The opening was on the 17th day of March, a little more than three months after the Disaster. The building which is still in use seats more than 400 ordinarily and has had to accommodate 348, without bible classes, actually present at a Sunday School session.

This united cause has been so honored of God and blest of Him, that, by the common consent of the denominations concerned, a new Church is being erected and the work to be continued as at present. The members of the respective churches retain their prior relation, the Missionary, Connectional and like funds are divided equally, the Session cares for the spiritual interests while matters of business are entrusted to a Quarterly Board. All property is held jointly by the Maritime Synod and the Nova Scotia Conference.

In the meantime new problems have arisen. The shipyards have been located a short distance from the site of the proposed church. The homes in the hydrostone district are just across the way. Developments in every direction necessitate a bold policy in matters affecting spiritual interests. Presbyterianism and Methodism demand that their representative church in this district build to meet the evident demands of the hour.

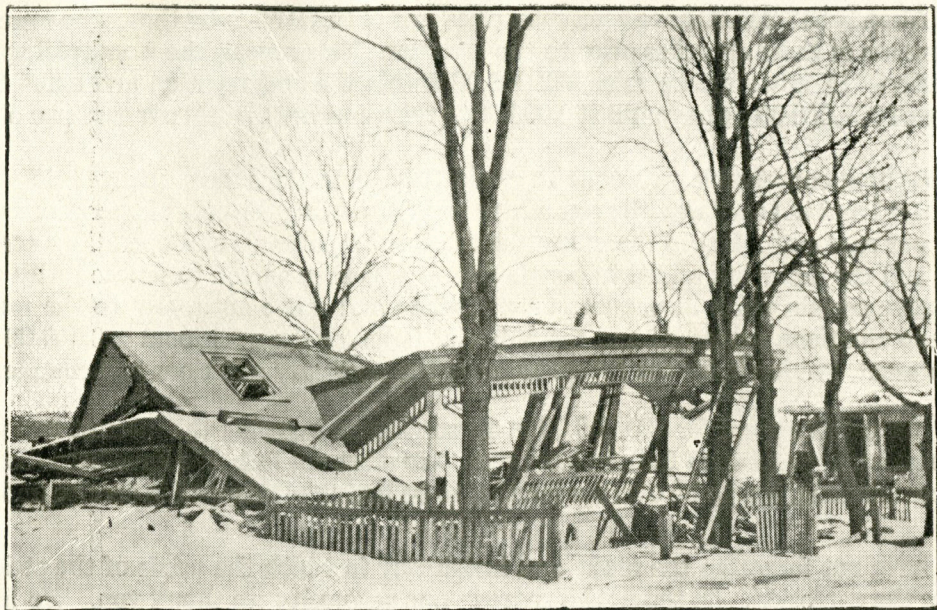
And the people have responded in a wonderful way. It was at first thought that much was not to be expected from a people stricken as these were, and with ranks so depleted. Mortgages





GROVE MANSE BEFORE THE DISASTER





GROVE MANSE AFTER THE DISASTER



are now the rule rather than the exception. The objective was set at \$10,000.00 to be paid within 1920. Already \$17,345.00 have been subscribed and of this 94% is by those who were members and adherents of these churches prior to the Disaster. This reveals the wonderful spirit of the congregation. If, however, we raise \$22,000.00 within the congregation and agree to carry a mortgage of \$25,000.00 we have still \$20,000.00 to raise in order to meet our assumed obligations.

Everything conceivable was done to avoid this. Our plans were changed, less expensive material used and in every way the committee sought to bring the cost of operations within the limits of our resources. But in the meantime the cost of materials and operations continued to advance and the delay but added to our plight. It was then agreed to proceed with the building, to leave certain parts incomplete or unfinished and make an appeal to the membership of the denominations concerned and the public at large for the additional \$20,000.00 necessary for the present, leaving it for the future to make the necessary additions and completions.

We make this appeal for \$20,000.00 in all confidence knowing the interest and generosity of our constituency and their faith in our cause. We must not fail. We have been disciplined to bear uncomplaining, but to be overburdened is to be both handicapped in service and to invite failure.

We have not forgotten the ready and lavish way in which the needs of the stricken were met after the explosion. As those who shared your generosity we thank you. We feel that in such a ministry you were enriched rather than impoverished, and we are the rather emboldened to seek your help in what is, because of that same tragedy, the day of our testing.

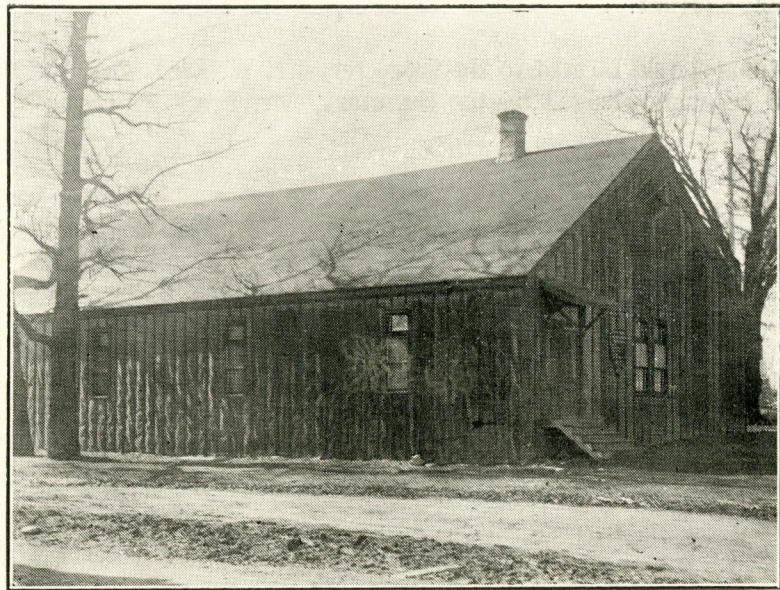


Subscribers may use the appended form and we ask as generous a subscription as our need and your sufficiency warrant.

All subscriptions should be sent to the treasurer, Mr. W. McT. Orr, 108 Windsor Street, Halifax, and will be acknowledged by the Secretary, Mr. Frank Burgess, 11 Cabot Street, Halifax.







THE TEMPORARY KAYE-GROVE CHURCH NOW BEING USED