

Petoskey Evening News SAT 3/11/1922

SOME INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE EARLY HISTORY OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PETOSKEY.

The First Presbyterian church of Petoskey was organized on August 2, 1856, with Rev. H.W. Guthrie, the first pastor and 16 charter members- Andrew Porter, Mrs. Mary Porter, Mrs. Ann Porter, Miss Ann Porter, Joseph Turner, Mrs. Alice Turner, Daniel Rodd, David Comfort, Mrs. Jane Comfort, Daniel Wills, Edward Noscah. Peter Muhkogum, Mrs. John Ahmewa, Mrs. Jane Miller, Mrs. Susan Wahbunogoa, Mrs. Ann M. Rodd- all of whom have passed away.

The first church building was erected in 1857 on what is now the David Jarman property, on Greenwood avenue, and is still standing. Later in 1875, another building was erected and is now the property of Emmanuel Episcopal church. Later, in 1889, the present church was dedicated. Sixteen pastors have filled the pastorate, Rev. H.M. Allburt serving in that capacity at present.

The church organization was the outgrowth of a mission founded by Andrew Porter, who was the first Protestant missionary in the Little Traverse region, having been sent from Pennsylvania to this county in 1847. The mission was established in 1852, later developing into the church organization in 1856.

Mr. Porter was an inspiring influence in the early history of Presbyterianism in Northern Michigan. Another strong power coming slightly later, Rev. John Redpath, whose work in Petoskey and throughout the county has been felt for many years and whose activity is still vitally linked with the religious life of the resort region and rural community.