

Christ Church Vestry Minutes, 1834-1836 ©
Building a new Village Church and Parsonage House
and the Vestry Scandal

Daniel B. Parkinson

*To honour my ancestors,
William Holtby junior, William Norrish, John Parkinson, Henry Smith
and the brothers of my great grandmother Susanna Brown Parkinson,
Gawn, James & William Brown,
all were members of Christ Church Vestry before 1840.*

This partial transcription of the *Christ Church Rawdon Minute Book*, for 1834-1836 is in **black font**, the explication **in green**, is by the author with any related comments. There were many months where nothing was recorded. Much of the content has been summarized and non essential formalisms of the day are omitted.

Quotation marks are used when required.

Members of vestry are at times identified by last name only unless they are appearing for the first time, to save space in the file. The military titles are their rank at the time in the Loyal Rawdon Militia and are not for the British military. Thomas Griffith had been an English army quartermaster, but his rank here is for the Rawdon militia.

February 1834 The 92 reform resolutions of Louis Joseph Papineau that pressed for responsible government would have been under discussion at Rawdon, when people read about them in *The Vindicator* and other Montreal and Quebec newspapers. Political dissent was in the air and the feeling of Vestry is possibly expressed in “the distemper now so prevalent,” in the August 2 minutes. From various accounts, it appears that Thomas Griffith had denounced their passage and proclaimed the loyalty of his own Rawdon supporters. This provides some background to the hostility that came to the surface around the classical schools meeting in December.

July 1834 J. L. Milton¹ assumed his duties as rector of the large area encompassed by Christ Church Rawdon and his first baptisms were performed there on **6 July 1834**. His name appears in the Minute Book conducting Vestry in the months following.

The minutes are in the excellent hand of the secretary Thomas Warren Cartwright.

¹ John Lawrence [Milton](#): Second Rector of Christ Church, Rawdon

_ July 1834

third resolution: "that Mr. Martin Hobbs be elected to act as Church Warden for the ensuing year. Mr. John Parkinson having also been chosen by the minister."

fifth resolution: "that in the opinion of this meeting the village site is most suitable for the erection of a Protestant, Episcopal Church for this township and that this meeting is guided in making this decision by an anxious wish to promote the general good and convenience of the Protestant population, the Village site being situated as near as possible to the centre of the Township; its contiguity to the Glebe and the tendency of the resection of a church there to facilitate the establishment of a thriving village in that delightful situation." *No other site is mentioned as being considered. The Village was centred at 17/5 and the Glebe was at 16 /6. Burton's church on his land in the First Range was distant from the centre, and likewise the school house at the Forks (22N / 2) that was used for services.*

sixth resolution: "that the select Vestry be authorized and empowered by this meeting to decide upon the most eligible lot for the erection of the church upon the Village Land, and also to make immediate application to his Excellency the Governor in Chief, [for] a grant of the same."

seventh resolution: "that a subscription be now opened for the purpose of raising funds for the erection of the contemplated P. E., and that the persons composing this meeting do come forward and make their donations, and it shall be understood that each person subscribing shall pay the amount of his subscription into the hands of the treasurer, when called upon, by the authority of the Vestry."

"The Protestant Episcopalians of this Township are fully disposed to contribute to the utmost in their power towards the erection of a church, but owing to the fact that the Township has been comparatively but recently settled, and the inability of the great majority of the people to afford any considerable aid, therefore".

eighth resolution: "that the Select Vestry be requested to authorize the Rev. J. L. Milton, with the sanction of the Lord Bishop of Quebec to solicit aid from the Episcopal Brethren abroad for the purpose of building the aforesaid Protestant, Episcopal Church and for the erection of a parsonage house for the Protestant, Episcopal minister" Mr. Milton here begged to interject that his consent came with the stipulation that receipts be given be him and certified by the churches or individuals, for "the amount thus received and shall be placed in the Bank of Montreal or other suitable place subject to the control of the Select Vestry". And That proceedings "be published in Montreal and Quebec papers."

July 19, 1834

Vestry meeting was "held in the Court House pursuant to Notice", *I cannot identify where this building was located in the village.*

Resolved that "each member be supplied with a subscription list by the Secretary and call on them individually if they have not already signed."

Building committee – Col. Thomas Griffith (*militia commander & crown agent*) and Thomas Warren Cartwright as vestry clerk. (*Cartwright was a school master in a Rawdon*

school and I believe was, Griffith's son-in-law. That they apply to Governor for a list of Village lands available as a church site.

That a draft of contemplated church be prepared and submitted to Vestry for approval at its next meeting (2 August 1834). "Length 65', breadth 40', elevation 16' including 2' masonry above surface." According to the Christ Church website in 2022, the first church building was completed and opened in 1834. This is not correct. Minutes that follow for August 1834, and November 1834, outline the ongoing planning. In May 1836, a subscription paper was to be circulated to collect "to erect a church on the village lot". Vestry Minutes from July and September 1837 indicate that the church building was completed.

Cartwright named Vestry and Church clerk.

Vestry: Thomas Griffith, Robert Bagnall, William Eveleigh, Dean Burns, Geo. Drought, J.H. Pigott, William Norrish, George Robinson, Alexander McCurdy, Samuel Smiley, John Robinson, Edward Tighe militia titles were not used

August 2, 1834 meeting was held "pursuant to public Notice"

Present: Revd. J. L. Milton in the chair, Thomas Griffith Esq., Rob't Bagnall Esq., Martin Hobbs church warden, Geo. Robinson, J. H. Pigott, Wm. Norrish

It is to be communicated to the Archdeacon that Vestry will endeavour to get subscriptions from those not yet committed, to request his influence be used to obtain land for church and parsonage and his permission to solicit the support of brethren in Quebec, Three Rivers and Montreal "whenever the abatement of the distemper now so prevalent shall render that step prudent." Probably, this was a reference to cholera, which had been endemic from the emigrant ships in 1832 but it appeared again in May 1834 at Grosse Isle and lasted July through September <https://www.tfcg.ca/history-of-cholera-canada>.

That Vestry shall devote August 11, 12, 13 to presenting subscription lists to those not yet signed and are resident in their neighbourhood.

August 16 Milton, Griffith, Bagnall, Pigott to procure lists to present at the 30 August Vestry

August 30 Milton, Griffith, Bagnall, Pigott, Hugh Torney, William Norrish, Edward Tighe

"the immediate erection of a residence for the minister is indispensable" therefore proposals to be received on September 15 and the secretary to give public notice of this meeting. There is no indication where Milton had been accommodated after arriving but presumably it was in the village as a boarder or in a rented house or inn.

Cartwright and Tighe to call upon subscribers to ascertain "if it will be convenient for them to pay their amount in order that Vestry may be enabled to promise payment to the contractor". They shall each receive "one pound ten shillings" remuneration for "their trouble"

- Sept 15, 1834 Vestry meeting: Reverend J. L. Milton, Lt. Col. Griffith treasurer, Major Bagnall, Captain Hobbs, Captain Eveleigh (William), Lieutenant Torney (Hugh), Edward Tighe, Lieutenant Pigott (James Henry), William Norrish
Griffith was named treasurer subject to control of Vestry
Proposal from Bagnall to build Parsonage House be received and acceded to.
Vestry authorizes the building committee to act in all matters “relative to the site of the House, site and discussions of the burial ground etc.”
Milton empowered to apply to brethren abroad and documents be prepared for him
- Nov. 1, 1834 Building Committee – Milton, Griffith, Bagnall
A letter received from the Archdeacon that aid may be expected “from a certain fund at the disposal of the Bishop.”
The committee to advertise to receive proposals for building the church and that plan and specifications be prepared.
- Nov. 17, 1834 Building Committee: Milton, Griffith, Bagnall – that receiving proposals be postponed to 22nd and the building of a stable and the sinking of a well.
- Nov. 22, 1834 A Building Committee: Milton, Lt. Col. Griffith (chair), Bagnall and Alex McCurdy
Bagnall’s proposal re church accepted
- Nov. 23, 1834 Select Vestry “after divine service” location is not mentioned but clearly it was not in Burton’s church on First Range but likely it was in the parsonage.
Thomas Griffith, Robert Bagnall, William Eveleigh, Dean Burns, George Drought, J.H. Pigott, George Robinson, Alex McCurdy. Samuel Smiley, John Robinson, Edward Tighe, William Norrish
- Dec. 6, 1834 pursuant to public notice, a meeting of the Building Committee was held at the parsonage to discuss building of the church. It is clear that the new parsonage was used for meetings and for divine service, as it was on Dec. 21.
Committee accepts Robert Bagnall relinquishing the position of chair. Milton proposes to “build the church himself and to distribute the advantages of the work amongst the parishioners to the best of his judgment.” The building is to be (with few exceptions) agreeable to the agreed plan and specifications and “in addition to have a Gallery at one end and a bell suspended of sufficient magnitude to be heard at least three miles distance or to a greater distance at his option and to paint the church inside and out for the sum of four hundred pounds currency.” It was unanimously resolved that Milton’s proposal be accepted. Signed William Long secretary *pro tem*, Milton, Alexander McCurdy, William Eveleigh, Robert Bagnall Did Bagnall step back to not be in a position of conflict of interest? He was a merchant and employed three servants operating his farm and business (1831 Census) as accounted in *Up To Rawdon*. The committee was resolved to move forward with Milton contracting the construction.
Resolved that a person be appointed to collect contributions to the building of the parsonage.

Dec. 6, 1834 A "Notice" was posted this day inviting those "interested in the cause of Education" to meet at the Parsonage House on Wednesday the 17th at 12: o'clock to make resolutions towards establishing a combined elementary and classical school and for the purpose of giving the village a new name.² It appears that the meeting was organized by Thomas Warren Cartwright, Milton and unnamed others, "an unauthorized hole and corner meeting" as described by Thomas Griffith, who was crown agent and treasurer of Vestry. *The Vindicator and Canadian Advertiser* of 13 January 1835.

Dec. 10, 1834 Vestry Meeting: Revd. J. L. Milton (chair), Lieut. Col. Thomas Griffith, Capt. Drought, Lieut. Eveleigh, Capt. Burns, Lieut. Torney, Lieut. Tighe, Lieut. Pigott, William Long Esq., Alexander McCurdy
– after the opening prayer, Milton delivered an impressive address "setting forth the great necessity of coolness, firmness and brotherly love in all the conversations of the Vestry and praying that in the consideration of any unpleasant matter ... they would be guided ... by a singleness of devotion in the advancement of the great cause in hand and the promotion of the Gospel etc." Milton clearly had an intimation of what was to follow, there must have been rumours about the meeting planned for the 17th.
"After which Col. Griffith rose and read from a paper a quantity of matter ... in the shape of a charge against the Revd. J. L. Milton containing the foulest calumnys [sic] against the character of The Revd. J. L. Milton." Griffith was asked to deliver the papers to Vestry and refused, "pocketed them and left directing "violent and abusive language" toward Milton.
Vestry resolved: the unidentified papers must be given up "as they contain the foulest expressions on the character of our respected minister and are highly disgraceful to us as a church" Revd. J. L. Milton is entitled to an opportunity to repel the charges ... which cannot be done but by [their] surrender. Vestry was Unanimous.
That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Griffith.
Vestry was warm and hearty in approving the work of the Building Committee presented at the 6th instant, Saturday last.
That the Revd. J. L. Milton is entitled to fifteen shillings "per day while about collecting subscription .

Dec. 16 1834 J. L. Milton with Vestrymen William Long and Thomas W. Cartwright as witnesses, stated in a letter to The Archdeacon of Quebec that he entered "upon the Glebe Lot 16 of the 6th Range, Rawdon Township, and by breaking a twig upon said land and by making a

² The plan was to honor Bishop Charles Stewart, who already had a location named in his honour. In 1816, the Governor of Lower Canada gave Bishop Charles Stewart permission to build the Charleston Academy at Charleston village, in what is now Hatley, in Hatley Township, near the United States border. This earlier village was located where the old North Church and cemetery was - on the North Road. The church was replaced by St. James in the village of Hatley. "The Story of Hatley", by Maud Gage Pellerin says that the name of the village was changed, from Hatley to Charleston in 1820, to honour the Bishop. However, Archives Canada has no record of this, and the post office was always named Hatley. She infers that the name change applied only to the parish. This may explain why the plan at Rawdon did not transpire. That and the resentment from the non-Anglican and the Roman Catholic communities for the ascendance it would give to the Anglican community.

declaration before witnesses at the time I have this day taken possession of said land on behalf of the church". (LAC C-2548 Vol,143, Page: 70023-70037). The lot was patented (for the church) to Milton on 3 January 1835 and Village Lots 1 and 2 of Village Range 3 were added as Clergy Reserve and purchased by the Church in the name of J. L. Milton with Letters Patent issued October 1838 engrossed and dated 10 December 1839.

Dec. 17, 1834 The public meeting adjourned / postponed by Milton.

What we know of this day comes from the conflicting accounts published in Montreal papers by Milton and Griffith in January 1835. Griffith from *The Vindicator and Canadian Advertiser* of 13 January 1835: the meeting was cancelled by Milton, on the day, because he had to attend Mr. Eveleigh who was ill (probably this was William Eveleigh's elderly father, John Eveleigh). No one was admitted to the Parsonage and the door was barred. Those who had assembled there for the meeting retired to meet at the home of William Norrish (also a Vestry member) and according to the "chairman," Thomas Griffith, seven resolutions were drawn up. It was resolved that schools should not be under the influence of a "foreigner" who was "sewing seeds of discord" between Protestant and Catholic. This was an attack on Milton, who was American born. It also stated that Milton was "subverting" the elementary schools of the township. Another resolution named him as bigoted and that "the people" would no longer attend meetings called by him. There were strong words of praise for Mr. Griffith, as reported by Mr. Griffith.

A response from Mr. Milton was written on 15 January and was published on the 16th, stating the postponed meeting was in fact held on Christmas Day.



"With feelings of deep regret have I noticed a communication in the columns of the Vindicator, under the name of Thomas Griffith, J.P., purporting to be the proceedings of a meeting held in Rawdon, pursuant to public notice. I say, Sir, with feelings of deep regret have I noticed this communication – regret not for myself, but for the suicidal conduct of the man under whose signature it appears. And I also regret to perceive by your editorial remarks, that you have leant an ear too favourable to *ex-parte* statements. The whole communication is characterized by falsehood and misrepresentation – The meeting which had been called for the 17th, but which for important reasons been publicly postponed, was not held until Christmas day. The meeting held on the 17th was composed of about 15 individuals – Thomas Griffith, J.P., at their head. Major Bagnall is prepared to give his affidavit that the placing of his name to the proceedings is a forgery – positively unauthorized. – But this is not the first forgery of the kind practiced by some in Rawdon, who wish to have the "pre-eminence," as

subsequent communications will shew. – It is extremely painful to reflect that I must shortly make a full

exposé of Mr. Griffith's conduct. Relative to me, the church and the public. – In the meantime, I shall merely remark, as painful as it is to my feelings, that so outrageous and libellous have been Mr. Griffith's conduct and language of late, that the full Vestry have ejected him from every office in the church. That the public might have a more correct idea of his strength, why did he not furnish them with the names of the few unadvised individuals whom he by misrepresentation gathered around him on the 17th ult.? why did he not furnish the public with the name of his Secretary? I am, Sir, truly sorry for the man. He has unquestionably brought himself into a pitiable condition. – Important documents, as painful as it may be to my feelings, must soon appear. Satan's kingdom has evidently of late been greatly disturbed in Rawdon, to the no small annoyance of his Satanic Majesty. – There is evidently in that parish a writhing in his camp, under the piercing rays of Gospel light. More anon, J. L. Milton, P.E. minister of Rawdon etc. (*Vindicator and Canadian Advertiser* 16 January 1835).

Resolutions relative to this were published in the *Montreal Gazette* **12 Feb 1835** by the Protestant Episcopalian inhabitants of Rawdon, expressing their support for the venerable archdeacon Jehoshaphat Mountain, who was at Rawdon when Milton went on leave. They confirm that "respect and esteem for the Reverend J. L. Milton remains unaltered." The charge of bigotry is refuted. Milton had established Sunday schools "available to children of every denomination" "equal rights to all denominations" were to be secured in the framing of regulations for classical schools. Previous to being ordained, Milton had taken "the necessary oaths" to qualify as a loyal British subject. A final resolution addressed the "dissension" and "harsh feeling" in the township and express opposition to anyone endeavouring to "involve [sic] the peace and harmony of society" and "to set an example of promoting these great objects." The proceedings were to be prepared by Major Bagnal [sic], William Long, Esq. and Mr. T. W. Cartwright and published in Montreal and Quebec papers.

In an anonymous letter from "a Rawdon man," to the *Vindicator*, **6 May 1835**, Griffith was attacked in a personal way. He had many enemies and was about to lose his position as land agent for the Crown. The reason appears to not be related to his attack on Milton.

Dec. 21, 1834 Sunday, Captain George Drought in the chair
Resolutions: "We view with extreme regret and dissatisfaction" the efforts that Lieut. Col. Griffith is making "to draw the character of our respected minister into disrepute with the people of the Township" and consider his conduct at the 10 December Vestry "to be ungentlemanly in the fullest acceptance of the word and that the shameful, unwarrantable, and unmerited attack" that he made on Milton "we consider disgraceful [to himself] as a public functionary and a member of society, calculated to bring into contempt the Church of Christ in the Township." That his conduct that day, "forgetting his station in Society and the laws of propriety and moral rectitude and in company with a few of our unadvised Roman Catholic brethren, whose minds had been previously unjustly prejudiced against" Milton 'came to the parsonage and grossly insulted him." They proceeded to another house and passed resolutions "detrimental to the peace and harmony and general interest of the parish."

Dec. 21, 1834 Select Vestry: Milton, R. Bagnall, Geo. Drought, Martin Hobs, Wm. Long, Ed. Tighe, John Parkinson (senior church warden)
Secretary T. W. Cartwright was requested to apply to brethren of the parish not yet subscribed to support the minister.

That a sense of gratitude be expressed for the speedy manner in which Major Bagnall “has conducted the building of the parsonage House ... and fulfilled his contract.”
John Parkinson, senior Church Warden in June 1839 Mr. Copping reported in his journal that John Parkinson, one Sunday, had preached in the absence of the minister.

William Long, esquire to be elected treasurer.

- Dec. 25, 1834 Pursuant to public notice “an adjourned public meeting was held in the parsonage after divine service.” This suggests that the parsonage was used for the service, no other venue has been suggested. Vestry minutes October 1835 confirm the continuing use of the parsonage for services The purpose was preparing for the establishment of a village elementary and classical school and to give “a name to the village.”
Resolved: That a school was of vital importance regarding “moral and intellectual improvement and deserves the most serious consideration.”
“It shall be established on the most liberal principles with regard to religion rendering all persons of orthodox principles eligible as Trustees, Master, deputy master etc. etc.”
Management of all matters relative to the school be in the hands of Trustees, three from each religious denomination in the Township. This suggests the existence of a formal Presbyterian church body; note the inclusion of John Jefferies’ name following.
Each chosen by their respective churches “by such as are eligible to vote for members of parliament” for three years, with related transactions, concerning deeds, to be in their name for the Township.
Committee of Five to be appointed to carry out the wishes of this body. Major Bagnall, Captain Dugar [sic Dugas] presumably representing Roman Catholics although he was only baptized on his deathbed, all his children were baptized and raised in that faith, John Jefferies, Esq., Solomon Cook a settler from before 1825 at 5/18, some of his land used for c. 1838 parsonage, his son was buried as an Anglican in 1840, their relationship to other Rawdon Cook families is not established.
Resolved henceforth “the village at present known as the village lands of Rawdon” to be known as Charleston and the secretary to inform his Lordship the Reverend Charles James Stewart image on page 6 on the subject.
Resolved that George Copping, senior, and Abraham Bagnall be elected members of select vestry.
- Dec. 25 1834 Select Vestry: Milton, Bagnall, Samuel Smiley, H. (sic J.H.) Pigott, J. Parkinson , Wm. Long, Dean Burns, G, Copping senior, A. Bagnall
Resolved that Long be elected treasurer “in the room of Lt. Col. Griffith who has been ejected from office.”
Secretary Cartwright to advise the Lord Bishop “gratitude towards the erection of our church and for sending a minister to labour so eminently qualified the arduous duties of the mission.”
- Dec. 31 1834 The final baptism, by Mr. Milton, in Christ Church register was on this day. His departure was meant to be for two months leave, but he never returned to the church that he began to build. In January and February 1835, baptisms were performed by

Archdeacon, the Reverend George Jehoshaphat Mountain. C. P. Reid became the incumbent after Milton and signed the register for events starting 23 August 1835. Did the bitter clash with Thomas Griffith, and the vitriolic letters in *The Vindicator and Canadian Advertiser* in January 1835, that followed about establishing a classical school and the opposition to the proposal to name the village Charleston, for Bishop Charles Stewart shake his resolve.

- Oct. 19, 1835 Vestry meeting: Rev. C.P. Reid, Wm Eveleigh, R. Bagnall, A. Bagnall, W. Norrish
Resolved that A. Bagnall be allowed to take back a press made by him now in parsonage, as there are no funds to pay for it.
Resolved that Vestry confirm agreement made by Cartwright with H. Nightingale concerning the wood that he logged in the church lands provided he "will burn and clear the land fit for the plough." Henry Nightingale was at 5/14 and recently had wed (October 12) Ellen Scales (daughter of Thomas Scales, who was added to Select Vestry November 1835).
Resolved that "the pipes for the stove which warms the room in the parsonage when the congregation assemble be paid for and the others be sold to the best advantage."
That money be collected from the congregation on Sundays to pay for clearing (?) roads and other necessary [illegible word] expenses.
That Mr. Reid be authorized to receive from Mr. Jefferies whatever money illegible in his hands subject to the order of this vestry.
Remainder of the subscriptions for the erection of a parsonage in this Township still due to be collected.
- Nov 21, 1835 Pursuant to public notice, a meeting of the congregation for selecting Church Wardens and select vestry
Present: Lt. Col. Griffith (nothing is written to indicate how he was reinstated since his ejection, eleven months previously), W. Holtby jr. (later Township Sec-Treasurer), R. Bagnall, A. Bagnall, H. Torney, Joseph Smith, E. Brittain, W. Eveleigh, Geo, Robertson [sic Robinson], Rev. C. Reid; church wardens John Eveleigh junior and Joseph Smith
Elected to Select Vestry: Lt. Col. Griffith, R. Bagnall, Thos. Scales, William Eveleigh, Edward Tighe, Richard Torney
Resolved: Vestry to continue until Easter 1837. Minutes are in the hand of C. P. Reid, minister (sadly, his handwriting lacks the beauty and legibility of the previous secretary, T. W. Cartwright)
- May 11 1836 Select Vestry meeting in parsonage: Revd. Reid, Joseph Smith, Thomas Griffith, Robert Bagnall, William Eveleigh, Edward Tighe, Richard Torney, Thomas Scales
That the balance of £2 / 12 / 11 be allowed to Robert Bagnall for work done to parsonage road and £5 / 0 / 0 for the stove furnished pursuant to contact with the Revd. J. Milton and that this money be paid him as soon as it can possibly be collected on the outstanding subscriptions still due. Bagnall is collecting outstanding debts from the previous year.

A subscription paper be circulated to collect “to erect a church on the village lot,” Mr. Reid to do this and be appointed treasurer. Another paper be circulated to collect to “enclose the Glebe yard.” I believe this must be the actual Glebe at 16/6 referred to in the next item, which properly was to be for the use of the minister.

Refers to Mr. John Sadler’s claim and mentions an award from the Archbishop. Claim to be settled for £1 / 5/ 0 in lieu of claims against the Glebe see *Up To Rawdon*, page 551 footnote 40. Sadler wanted to be paid for the work done at 16/6 which Archdeacon Mountain had promised would happen “when [the lot] was required for public purposes”. Sadler’s original motive in going there is unclear, perhaps he hoped to acquire it if the church decided to discard it. The Sadlers once stalwart Anglicans became Methodist after 1842. See the Reverend Mitchell [Sadler](#): “Endeared to All”.

That Thomas Griffith be allowed the use of the Glebe for the current year provided he pay Mr. Sadler the above and put the minister in peaceable possession of it in the beginning of the next year.

June 9, 1836 Select Vestry meeting in parsonage: Revd. Reid, Thomas Griffith, Robert Bagnall, John Eveleigh, Joseph Smith, William Eveleigh, Edward Tighe

It was resolved to take all measures to erect a Protestant Episcopal church in the village proposed by Mr. Reid and that Mr. Reid and Colonel Griffith “be appointed specially to superintend the erection of the church.”

“That the offer of Mr. Robert Bagnall to deliver 1820 feet of good lumber stock four inches thick on or before 12 July next for the sum of £10 currency be accepted. It being understood each plank is to be 10 feet in length and that they are to be delivered to the church site.”

The Vestry Minutes 1834 – 1836 has gaps when no meetings were held because it was difficult for men who were clearing land and farming to get together more frequently. Riding horses were somewhat of a luxury, and they were needed by their sons and brothers at home. Almost all the members lived many miles distant from the village – Edward Tighe came from Tenth Range, Lot 25; Martin Hobbs, Abraham Bagnall and John Parkinson lived on the Ninth apart from each other on lots 5 to 21. Samuel Smiley was at Lot 7 of the Eighth. Coming from the Second Range were Dean Burns, George Robinson, Alexander McCurdy, all with farms near the Forks of the Red River and Hugh Torney of Lot 7 was far to the west on this range or concession.

The vestry minutes story is continued at:

Christ Church [Vestry Minutes, 1837-1842](#) Rev. C. P. Reid and Rev. R. H. Bourne
and [Christ Church Vestry Minutes 1843-1846](#) the Completion of the Parsonage, 1843 Subscription Lists.