



Diocese of Alexandria-Cornwall

# This Week in History

November 2, 2015

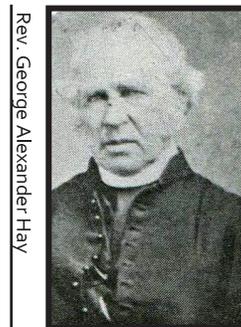
## Death of a Beloved Pastor: Father George Alexander Hay

On the 7th day of November, 1876, we the undersigned, John Joseph Williams, Arch Bishop of Boston, have interred in the vault of the parish Church of St. Andrews the remains of the Very Reverend George Alexander Hay, vicar general of the Diocese of Kingston & parish priest of St. Andrews who departed this life at the age of 69 years. *(taken from the Death Register, St. Andrew's Parish)*

The following is an account of the death and funeral of Father George Alexander Hay, pastor of St. Andrew's Parish, as reported the local Cornwall newspaper.

"Again the Catholic Church of the Diocese of Kingston has been called upon to mourn the loss of another of her oldest and most respected priests in the person of Father George A. Hay, parish priest of the parish of St. Andrew's."

"The Very Reverend George Alexander Hay, Vicar-General of the Diocese of Kingston was born June 7, 1807, at Glenyore, in the parish of Williamstown. His father was a Lowland Scottish Presbyterian, and his mother a Highland Scottish Catholic, who brought her children up in her own belief. At an early age he was sent to Iona College, St. Raphael's, Glengarry, under the immediate directorship of the Right Reverend Dr. Macdonell (Bishop Alexander Macdonell, later first bishop of Kingston and Upper Canada.) Having pursued his classical studies with success and graduated with distinction, he was next sent to St. Sulpice (the Grand Seminary) in Montreal, and there made his theological studies, after which he was raised to the Holy Priesthood at St. Raphael's in 1832 by Bishop Alexander Macdonell.



Rev. George Alexander Hay



2nd church (1860 to 1860)

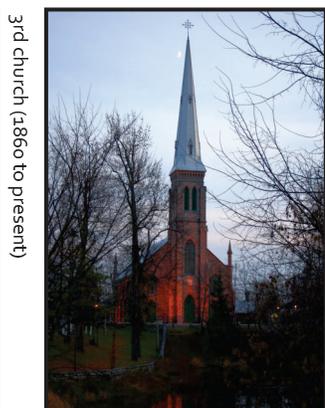


Old Convent

Father Hay's first assignment was as curate at Sandwich (now Windsor) in what is now the parish of the Assumption, to Vicar-General A. Macdonell. A little later he served at Kingston. In 1836, upon the death of Father Fraser, he was appointed by Bishop Macdonell to the parish of St. Andrew's where he has served as parish priest for forty years. Father Hay was the true type of a gentleman, genial and unpretending, ever ready to advance the interests of his people, in fact,

to know him was to love him.

It was principally by his own generous gifts years ago that his people could glory in having a Convent School in their midst. Only two months ago he established a bursary of \$2,000 in the College at Montreal for the benefit of Scottish students of limited means studying for the church.



3rd church (1860 to present)

Bishop Horan named him Dean and Vicar-General of the diocese and a member of the bishop's council. For some years past Father Hay has been suffering from neuralgia, yet he continued to the very end in the full exercise of his ministry. On the morning of Holy Souls Day he sang high mass and preached. It was the last work he did. That evening he complained of a pain in his spine, and a few minutes later at half-past ten he was called away to receive the rewards of his labours.

The funeral was held the next Tuesday from the rectory.

Death Register - St. Andrew's Parish

HUNTLEY, John Lawrence Dated 22-Jan-1876 Ref:8-3,page-365	HUNTLEY, Andrew (son of) & of Esther CONNOR. Catholic 22nd Inst. aged 10 months & 5 days. Parents Andrew Huntley, Alexander Dooart, William M. Fox.
HUGHSON, [Isaac?] Dated 26-Nov-1873 Ref:8-25,page-325	HUGHSON, James (son of) Catholic yesterday aged 10 years. Parents George Macdonell, James Allan, Alice Macdonell.
HUGHSON, Henry Dated 03-Dec-1873 Ref:8-6,page-326	HUGHSON, James (son of) & of Mary McDONNELL. Catholic 1st Inst. aged 5 yrs Parents James McDonnell, Alexander Dooart.
HUGHSON, John Dated 05-Apr-1873 Ref:8-13,page-311	HUGHSON, ? Dec 2nd Inst. aged 27 years. Parents Henry Harrison, Dooart McDonell, Samuel McIntosh.
HAY, George Alexander Rev. M.A. Dated 07-Nov-1876 Ref:8-3,page-370	On the 7th day of November, 1876, we the undersigned, John Joseph Williams Arch Bishop of Boston, have interred in the vault of the parish Church of St. Andrew the remains of the Very Reverend George Alexander Hay vicar general of the Diocese of Kingston & parish priest of St. Andrew who departed this life the second instant aged 69 years.
FRASER, William Rev. Dated 20-Feb-1870 Ref:8-12,page-311	On the same day the remains of the Reverend William Fraser were, with the consent of the Very Reverend Vicar General Fyall, removed from the old Church & deposited in the same vault in the presence of J. Lindsay, St. Brigid's parish priest, George Alexander Hay vicar general, James McDonnell, Subprior, [unclear], and [unclear] who signed [unclear].
HILLBURN, Jane Dated 20-Feb-1870 Ref:8-12,page-310	HILLBURN, ? Dec 26th Inst. aged 20 years. Parents William Hillburn, James T. McNeill, Rebecca Dooart.
HUGHSON, Edward Dated 03-Apr-1873 Ref:8-12,page-311	HUGHSON, ? Dec 26th Inst. aged 20 years. Parents William Hillburn, James T. McNeill, Rebecca Dooart.
KEEFE, Cornelius Dated	KEEFE, ? Dec 19th Inst. aged 60 years. Parents Patrick Keefe, [unclear]