

Methodist Church

In 1829 Rev. William Wilson reported on the construction of a new Methodist church at Bird Island Cove. He stated that the timbers were being cut for the new church and that the church was opened in the same year (Methodist Church records, U.C. Archives, Elizabeth Avenue, St. John's, NF). It was built just inside the North-East corner of what is now called the 'old' cemetery and probably replaced the church that was shared in earlier times with the Anglican congregation (N.C. Crewe File, PANL, P4/13).

Wilson's report of July 18, 1829 (The Wesleyan-Methodist Magazine, ACC NR.):

...In Bird Island Cove, we are constrained to exclaim, "What hath God Wrought!" When I left the Circuit we had but five members; whilst prejudice and opposition ran through the harbour like a torrent: now we have four classes, and fifty-four members. To God be all the Glory. The present state of the fishery prevents us from holding any service on week-evenings; but as soon as circumstances will allow us, our week-evening meetings will be resumed. Our Sunday school is doing well; but we much feel the want of Spelling books and Catechisms...

...Our churches were plain wooden buildings, and as to size they were generally well proportioned to the wants of the place. In many of the out-harbours, the whole Protestant population called themselves Wesleyans, when our congregations would be large; and in some places where the Episcopalians had establishments, a goodly number always attended the Methodist church. I have mentioned the Episcopalians, because there were no other Protestant bodies but them and the Wesleyans in any out-harbour in the island. Several of our churches were without stoves, so that in very severe weather we would be obliged to have a very short service, or dispense with our service altogether.

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