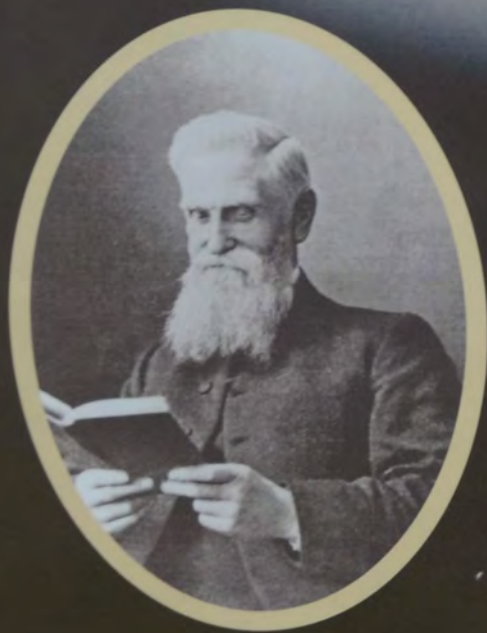


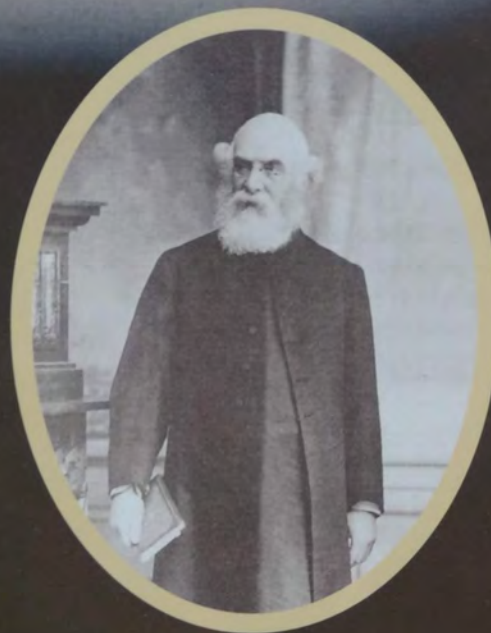
# Holy Trinity Church (1)



Photo by: Willis E. Adcock, 1911  
*Courtesy of Stephen Sharpe*



**Rev. James Chambers,**  
**Magdalen Islands Mission 1875-1885**  
*Courtesy of Municipal Archives of Amsterdam*



**Rt. Rev. James William Williams**  
**Bishop of Quebec 1863-1892**  
*Courtesy of Diocesan Archives*



**Willis E. Adcock**  
*Courtesy of Stephen Sharpe*

Erected by  
The Grosse Ile Heritage Society



In 1853, the Rev. Felix Boyle commenced building a small church near this site. Purchasing lumber from a wreck at a reduced rate, the church was framed and the walls and roof closed in, but due to a shortage of funds it was never completed. Over the following 25 years, it was used for service only during the warm summer weather.

In 1875, the Rev. James Chambers, became the Missionary in charge of the Anglican Mission of the Magdalen Islands and shortly thereafter decided that a new church was needed for Grosse Isle.

The old church was dismantled and removed from the site, and in the Rev. Chambers annual report to Church Society for 1877 he said: *"A new Church was commenced this year on Grosse Isle; a sufficient sum was raised to defray the expense of the first contract, viz: Foundation, frame, rough boarding, shingling the roof only, tower and steeple, windows and door."* The carpenter engaged for the work was a Mr. James MacLean from Nova Scotia

The following summer (1878) even though the church was unfinished, it was used for a confirmation service during a visit by the Bishop - the Right Rev. James William Williams. Ten persons were confirmed during the morning service and three more from Bryon Island in the afternoon.

The Rev. Chambers 1879 report, however, mentions that unless sufficient funds can be raised: *"I am afraid we shall be as far off having a church as ever."*

In the autumn of 1881, he took a leave of absence to travel to England hoping to obtain enough funding to finish the church and other work that was badly needed in the Mission.

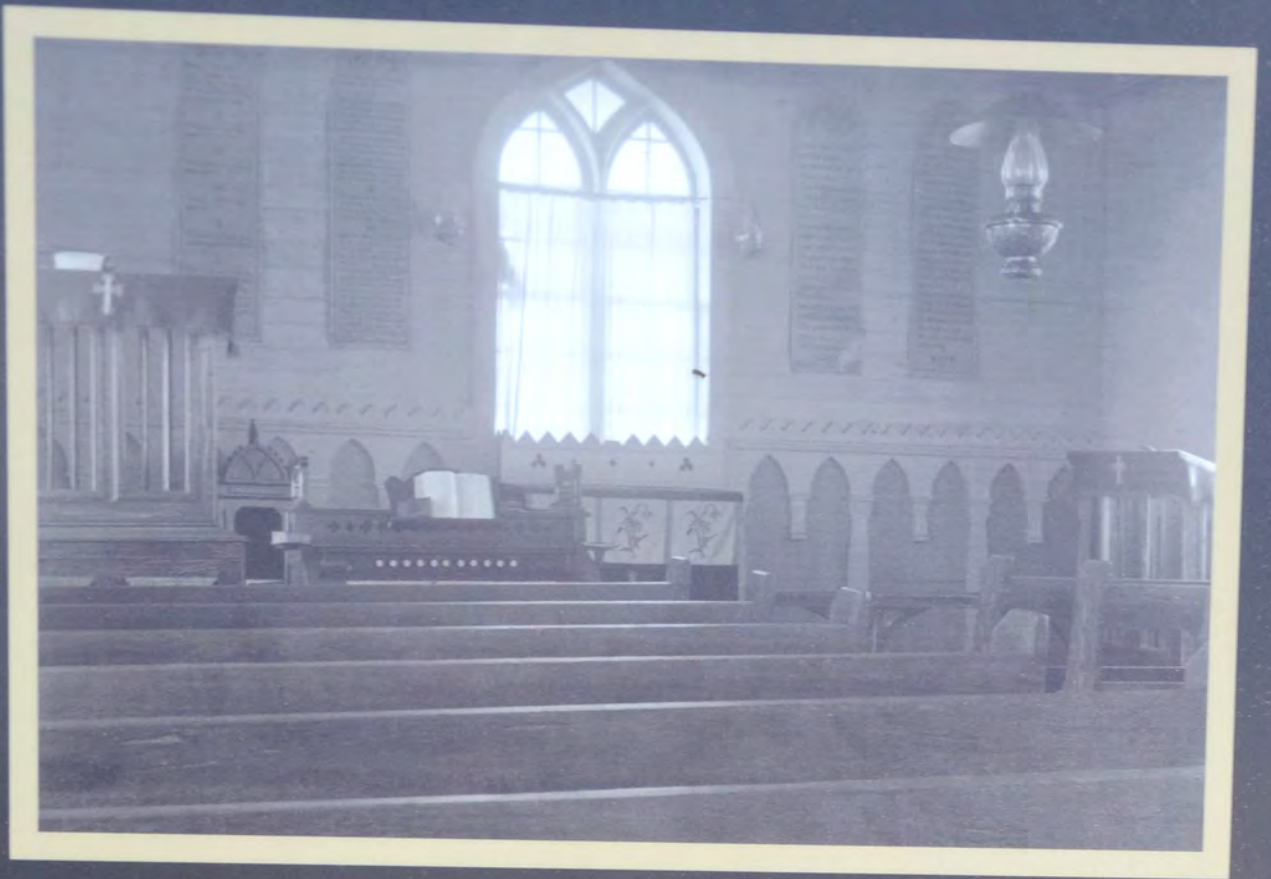
Returning to the Magdalen Islands in 1882, his report for that year to the Church Society said: *"The Society may be glad to know that (£500) five hundred pounds sterling is in the keeping of the London Committee of the Colonial and Continental Church Society, which the friends of this Mission in England kindly gave me for the building of a new parsonage (Grindstone), and repairing and finishing churches here."*

The 1883 report stated that the new Church was perfectly completed and fit for Divine Service and that it would accommodate about 200 people. He went on to say, *"It has never been in debt, for I was determined not to drive a nail, unless we had the means in hand to pay for it."*

On July 27, 1884, during a visit to the Mission by Bishop Williams, the church was consecrated under the name Holy Trinity.

Situated on the side of the hill at Grosse Isle North, its tall slender spire rising high above the bell tower presented an imposing structure and landmark overlooking most of the community. Its bell could be heard as far away as the village of Old Harry - some four miles distant. During its forty year history, it had witnessed many joyous occasions but it had also witnessed its share of sad ones. One in particular, was the funeral for three young men from one family in the community, who had frozen to death on the beach in a snow storm. This was one of the last funerals to be held in this church.

During a severe windstorm in October 1922, the church blew off its foundation causing some damage to the bottom of the building. However, it was still used for church services during a part of the following year. In late 1923 it was torn down, leaving not only a visible vacant spot in the cemetery where it once stood but also a vacant spot in the hearts of many of its older parishioners who had worshipped within its walls.



**Photo by: Willis E. Adcock, 1911**

*Courtesy of Stephen Sharpe*



*Willis Adcock, son of the Rev. W.A. Adcock, came to Grosse Ile where he served as a lay reader 1910-1911. An avid photographer, he took many outstanding photographs during his year on the islands including two on this panel.*

*With World War 1 raging in Europe, he joined the Eighth Royal Rifles in August 1914, serving overseas. On November 15, 1915, Willis Adcock was killed in action at the age of 25. He is buried in Belgium.*

**Willis E. Adcock**

*Courtesy of Stephen Sharpe*