

Settlers who came to Upper Canada had their work cut out for them. They had to clear the land, build homes and begin a new life in a strange land. The government of Britain had granted land in this area. The nearest village was Niagara. Hamilton, Toronto or Brantford did not exist. They brought their religious beliefs with them.

From 1838 to 1844, Seneca, (later to become Caledonia or a part thereof), was part of the Walpole Mission of the Wesleyan Methodist Church which extended to what is now Port Maitland and Nanticoke and included Walpole, Oneida, Seneca and Glanford.

By 1842, there was already a thriving Wesleyan congregation at Seneca village, including among others:

James Little, the storekeeper,
John Jackson, engineer for the Grand River Navigation Company,
Samuel Gray,
William Youell,
John, Henry, Michael and Susan Norris,
James and John Greenley,
Jacob and William Thompson,
John Lawrence,
John Bell,
Daniel Clark,
Thomas Mussen,
Hannah and Peter Young.

In the early 1860's, Methodist circuit riders and early ministers held camp meetings in Mr. James and John Greenleys' bush which later became the farm of Mr. Richard Ince, then Mr. William Ince and then his son Mac Ince. It was situated north east of Caledonia near the corner of McClung and Mine Road, east. From these meetings the need for a church was felt which led to the building of a church in 1864. The land was donated by John Birchan Hull. Services were held in the Green School House and Welcome School House until the building was completed.

When the matter of building was being considered the site was an important point. Three pieces of land were offered for that purpose. One was near the Green School House; one was on the west side of the Plank Road north of the Black Creek; and the other was on the farm of John Birchan Hull and his wife Margaret. The latter was the property chosen.

This property consisted of three quarters of an acre along Seneca Sideroad on part of Lot # 3, concession 1 west of the Port Dover to Hamilton Plank Road in Seneca Township in the former Haldimand County. This land included enough land for both a church and a cemetery. The deed for the property for the Unity Congregation of The Wesleyan Methodist Church in Canada in connection with the English Conference was signed on the 4th day of October 1864 by the trustees. They were John Birchan Hull, Reuben Mattice, James Hardie, John Chambers, William Whaley and Oliver Tiffany Heartwell all of the Township of Seneca, Yeomen, and William Rattenbury of the Township of Glanford, Carpenter. This deed is in the Registry Office at Cayuga recorded under inditement # 1720.

Enough money was subscribed to build the church before they commenced building. Mr Rattenbury was the contractor and Mr. Thomas Parker and Mr. Joseph Parker did the masonry work. Mr Reuben Mattice will be remembered as spending the greater part of the summer working at the church without any remuneration.

**** The name "UNITY" was first suggested by Mrs. Reuben Mattice. ****

In the first years of its existence Unity was part of the Glanford Circuit. Rev. Mr. Keough was the first minister. Previous to this the following were pastors of the Seneca Wesleyan Methodist Church.

The Rev. Sylvester Hurlburt	1843 - 1846
The Rev. Thomas Demorest	1847 -
The Rev. Thomas Cosford	1848 -
The Rev. John Baxter	1849 -
The Rev. William Haw	1851 -
The Rev. Thomas Woolsey	
also missionary to the N.M. Indians)	early 1860's
The Rev. Hall Christopherson	1861 - 1863

Following Rev. Mr. Keough at Unity were:

The Rev. George H. Cornish	1863 - 1865
The Rev. Thomas Pearson	1866 - 1868
The Rev. Richard Potter	1868 - 1869
The Rev. John W. Savage	1869 - 1871
The Rev. John B. Armstrong	1871 -
The Rev. J. W. German	1872 - ?

It was during Rev. Savage's pastorate that the first revival took place. These gentlemen were known as 'Saddle Bag' or 'Circuit Ministers' as they rode on horseback to their congregations sometimes only getting around once in four weeks. In 1871 Unity became part of the Seneca Circuit and then part of the Caledonia Circuit in 1877. At that date it became a two point charge with the Methodist Church in Caledonia and the services were conducted by the same minister. The Caledonia service being held in the morning and the Unity service in the afternoon.

Fuel in the formative years was wood supplied by the parishoners and evening light was tallow candles or oil lamps. Caretaking was by volunteers taking a month at a time seeing to the heating and cleaning. In the early 1900's the wood stove was taken out and gas was piped from # 6 highway (the Plank Road). The first gas heat was by a furnace with burners under the church. It was difficult to light and the caretaker had to crawl under the church to start it. There was a key, however, in the sanctuary above to turn the furnace off. There were two registers, one at the front and one at the back. This furnace was replaced by gas stoves, a big one at the back in the north east corner and a radiant burner at the front of the church beside the dias.

When gas was piped up from the Plank Road in 1913 hanging gas fixtures were installed in the sanctuary near the four corners of the church. On the two arms of these fixtures were glass globes with mantles in each of the globes. This was quite a change to the light shed by the coal-oil lamps. The vestibule at the entrance of the church was built about 1915 - 1917 under the guidance of Mr. Edmond Carver. A frame kitchen which was added to the south at that time was heated when necessary from the oven of a cook stove. Gas fumes were in evidence. Electricity was installed in 1960 and the gas light fixtures were removed.

It is said that the Early Methodists in Seneca travelled to the White Church on Leeming Road in Glanford for the 'love feast'. This service featured the Quarterly Sunday Communion service for the members of the various churches comprising the Glanford Circuit. It was under the supervision of Rev. George Young and Rev. Wm Hull. Some of the residents along the Grand River used to walk to attend this service.

By 1871 the Seneca Circuit was formed in the charge of Rev. John B. Armstrong. He was appointed by the Belleville Conference. The Circuit had about 210 members and included Seneca Village, Fishers, Unity and Seneca West at Greens School House. There was also the Grand River mission which included people on both sides of the river near York.

Since Seneca was one of the first townships settled because of its proximity to the river it had a large number of churches. Many of these did not survive the 1880's. The Faith and attendance at Unity prevailed and it became a strong Wesleyan Methodist congregation.

On November 14, 1871 the first election of stewards was held in the Seneca Circuit. There were five from Caledonia, viz. Wm. H. Hull, recording steward, George Jeffery, Richard Seldon, John Thompson, Thomas Nicholas and two from Unity, Wm Parke and Wm. McAdam. At the same meeting the first Sunday School Committee was appointed. For Caledonia they were Robert Nicholas, Superintendent, John Alexander, David Lindsay, Thomas Nicholas, David Young and John Lawrence. For Unity John Hull was Superintendent along with Wm. Old, Tiffany Hartwell and Wm. Parke.

Mr John Hull was Superintendent for the Sunday School and also a class leader for many years. At different times he occupied the pulpit of the church. He always held the deepest interest in the spiritual welfare of the church and community. Mr Wm Whaley was also a faithful Superintendent and class leader for a number of years.

Drinking was a real problem in those days with the abundant quantity of cheap whiskey. The influence of the church in the community must have had a difficult time. It is recorded that there were fifteen taverns between Caledonia and Hamilton in the late 1800's. These were also stage coach stops. One such tavern was at the corner of Unity Road and the Plank Road.

In 1874 the union of the various Wesleyan bodies in Canada took place under the name of the Methodist Church of Canada. Rev. W. Willoughby was appointed to this charge by the first London Conference. The two congregations in Caledonia united. The Wesleyan Methodists and the New Connexionists formed the Methodist Church of Canada in Caledonia. They were soon to build the present Church on Caithness Street East in 1877, leaving only a cemetery at Seneca by tearing down the church there. It is probable that The Rev. William Morton was the last minister to preach there.

When the Caledonia Circuit became the Methodist Church in Caledonia and at Unity in 1877 the following were the ministers until Church union in 1925:

The Rev. William Morton	1877 - 1880
The Rev. Thomas Stubbs	1880 - 1883
The Rev. Edwards	1883 - 1885
The Rev. J.R.Elliott	1885 - 1888
The Rev. J.J.McCartney	1888 - 1889
The Rev. C.W. Cosens	1889 - 1892
The Rev. T.Jackson	1892 - 1895
The Rev. W.Spalding	1895 - 1896
The Rev. H.Livingston	1896 - 1901
The Rev. Charles Dobson	1901 - 1905
The Rev. Charles Smith	1905 - 1906
The Rev. Alfred Smith	1906 - 1910
The Rev. W.Brandon	1910 - 1913
The Rev. G.F.Morris	1913 - 1916
The Rev. J.Milton Copeland	1916 - 1920
The Rev. Henry Brand	1920 - 1924
The Rev. William Fiddes	1924 - 1927

In the early years of Unity Church, tea meetings were held. These tea meetings gave place to harvest home suppers which were held in the sheds that ran parallel to the church on the west side. The sheds were decorated with grain and fruit for the occasion. The suppers were held in the full of the moon to help with the lighting. It is said that the Grinyers made coffee at home and brought it in containers to these occasions.

Music played an important part in the church life. When the church was opened the Brierly family of Mt. Hope supplied the music. Mrs Case was one of the members of that family and Case Church, Glanford was named after that family. A young peoples group called the Epworth League exchanged visits and many young people found their life partners in that group. Mr. Rattenbury was the first precenter and was followed by Mr. Wm. Old. They used a tuning fork to strike a pitch where there was no instrument and they chanted.

The first organ was purchased about 1878. The first organist was Miss Lizzie Clark who became Mrs. Padgum. Mr. Wm Oldfield was choir leader for many years and took a great interest in the singing at the Sunday School. He used to come to church half an hour before time to teach the scholars the notes. Mr. Joshua Parker followed Mr. Oldfield and acted as leader for twenty seven years. An article in the Grand River Sagem in 1924 reported a successful play put on by the Young People to raise money to buy a piano to replace the worn out organ. The play was put on in the Opera House, Caledonia. The performers were recorded as being:- Pearl Whaley, Ward Grinyer, Allan Parker, Zelda Parker, Robert Parker, Jennie Hawthorne, and Edna Thompson. Edna was not a Unity member but the teacher at Welcome School at that time. This piano is still in use over sixty years later and is often tuned for the annual church service every September. After the piano took over the accompaniment, the old organ was left in the back kitchen before it was eventually discarded.

The early circuit was served by missionaries (ministers) and was divided into classes under local leaders who were responsible for the spiritual and financial requirements of the church.

Seneca	--	Class 1	--	David Lindsay
Seneca	--	Class 2	--	John Alexander
Caledonia	--	Class 3	--	Thomas Nicholson
Unity	--	Class 4	--	John B. Hull
Unity	--	Class 5	--	William Old
Fishers Church	--	Class 6	--	William Thompson
		Class 7		
York		Class 8	--	Robert Davis
Zion		Class 9	--	John Senn
Indiana		Class 10	--	James Montgomery

The first church in this district was Seneca Church built in 1843 and Unity Church was built in 1864.

In the Spring of 1895 a Womens' Missionary Society was formed in the Unity Community with eleven ladies being present. Of these Mrs. Robert McKibbon was chosen president with Mrs J.B. Hull as vice president, Mrs James Lindsay as secretary and Miss Louise Parke as treasurer. Records show that during the first forty years of the very active work of this organization that there were just four presidents which speaks highly of their ability as leaders. In 1916 the Society was proud to sponsor Miss Mary Parker as a missionary to Japan. It was her sister Martha (Mrs. Leonard Parke) who always held the annual missionary band picnic at her home every summer.

Mrs Robert McKibbon, as the first president, held the office of president for twenty four years - from the time of its organization until her death. Mrs McKibbon took an active part in all of the work of the church.

Although the church services were discontinued in 1948, the women of the church carry on with their meetings. They are regarded as an active (although small in number) group of United Church women who carry on the missionary tradition of Unity started nearly a century ago. Annually a bale of goods is sent off to missionaries serving the United Church in Third World countries.

In 1962 the Womens' Association (W.A.) and the Womens' Missionary Society (W.M.S.) of the United Church joined to form the United Church Women under the Haldimand-Norfolk Presbyterial.

The annual church report of 1964 listed the following ladies as members of Unity United Church Women:-

Mrs. Ross Howley	President
Mrs. Earl Vanderwater	Secretary
Mrs. Sidney Parke	Treasurer

Mrs. Harold Parker
 Mrs. Stanley Parker
 Mrs. Jack Parker
 Mrs. Clara Wright
 Mrs. Stanley Jerome
 Mrs. Norman Whaley
 Mrs. Bertha Dixon

Mrs. Kenneth Parker
 Mrs. John McIntyre
 Mrs. Jim Lindsay
 Mrs. Warren Bates
 Mrs. Ella Carver
 Mrs. William Beveridge
 Mrs. Lottie Gilchrist

In the Summer of 1982 the cemetery was completely transcribed. Until 1925 it was known as the Unity Wesleyan Methodist Church cemetery and then it became known as Unity United Church cemetery. The earliest interment as recorded on a monument is that of John Nalton who died May 17, 1858. aged 43 years, 3 months and 17 days, a native of Yorkshire, England. The cemetery is still in use to-day (1990) when Mr. James Eric Lindsay was interred there in February. He was the grandson of Mr. David Lindsay a member and staunch churchman in the early years of Unity.

Much credit for the care and upkeep of the cemetery for many years must be given to Mr. Ward Grinyer and to his sister Miss Verlie Grinyer who tended to the flowers and grass for over 30 years. The present caretaker who is also doing a fine job is Mr. Allan Miller. Some land has been added to the East and West ends of the cemetery so that the boundary fences could be straight ended. All the lots have been sold but as mentioned before it is still being used and will be for many years to come.

In November 1882, the Congregation became known as the Unity Congregation of the Methodist Church of Canada. That same year, since Reuban Mattice had moved away, James Hardie and William Whaley had died, and Oliver Tiffany Heartwell had ceased to be a member of the church; James Birchan Hull and William Rattenbury, two of the surviving trustees, appointed William Parke, Sr., William Oldfield, William Horatio Hull, William Whaley, Thomas Hammond and Francis Robert Isles, all of the Township of Seneca, yeoman, to be trustees, conjointly with William Rattenbury, John Chambers and John Birchan Hull now holding that office.

In 1975 the Unity Cemetery Board was composed of :-

Mr. Glen Howley	Mr. Eric Lindsay	Mrs. Stanley Parker
Mr. Norman Whaley	Mr. Ward Grinyer	Mr. Lorne Parke
Mr. Leslie Parke	Mr. Bruce Whaley	Mr. Joseph Shannon
Mr. Fred Parker		

with Secretary - Treasurer Mrs. Ross Howley
Caretakers Ward and Verlie Grinyer

In 1983 the Unity Cemetery Board was composed of :-

Mr. Lorne Parke - Chairman		
Mr. Bruce Whaley - Secretary		
Mrs. Stanley Parker	Mrs. Ross Howley	Mr. Glen Howley
Mr. Joseph Shannon	Mr. Eric Lindsay	Mr. Fred Parker
Mr. Warren Bates	Mrs Marie (Lannie) Salmon	

As some of these members have died, a smaller board is still active in the interest of the church and cemetery. Earlier burials for the area may have been in plots on the family farms or at the Seneca Methodist cemetery which commenced about 1837. It is still in evidence on Winnett Street off highway # 54 at the eastern entrance to Caledonia.

The first wedding in the church was that of Miss Emma Finch and Mr. Odus Johnston. Their daughter, Jean became a well known teacher of piano and theory from their home on the Mine Hill, # 6 highway north of Caledonia and later from her studio above Jones Bakery in Caledonia.

The church was remodelled in 1915 during the pastorate of Rev. G. Francis Morris. The present pews are the original ones. Mr Edmond Carver took a very active part and had a great interest in the remodelling of the church. The ceiling and vestibule were panelled. It was then that the arch was put over the front door. His widow Ella (Whaley) was one of the longest living members of the congregation. Her husband, Edmond was killed in a tragic farm accident early in their marriage leaving to mourn his passing was his wife Ella and two daughters Dorothy (Dr. Fred Nicholson) and Wilma (Mr. Norris Whewell).

CHURCH UNION June 10, 1925

Methodist Rev. William J. Fiddes
 Presbyterian Rev. N.D. MacKinnon

Grand River Sachem announcement for Sunday June 7th 1925

This is the last Sabbath that we shall worship as a Methodist Congregation. Let us join in a humble, reverent spirit of confession, consecration and self-searching that we may be made fit for the great days ahead.

Rev. W. J. Fiddes became the first United Church minister at the Caledonia Charge of Grace and Unity. Rev. N. D. MacKinnon and a large portion of the congregation of the Presbyterian Church moved over to the United Church. Rev. N. D. MacKinnon was soon placed by the Stationing Committee of the United Church of Canada to Norval United Church, three miles from Georgetown.

Ministers of Grace and Unity since Union are:

The Rev. William Fiddes	1925 - 1927
The Rev. James Laird	1925 (retired)
The Rev. N. D. MacKinnon	1925 - 1926
The Rev. J. T. Heslop	1927 - 1933
The Rev. Harold Aackert	1933 - 1938
The Rev. James Gale	1938 - 1945
The Rev. Douglas A. Brydon	1945 - 1949

The 75th anniversary services (1864 - 1939) were held on Sunday October 7th, 1939 with the church filled both morning and evening. The guest ministers on that occasion included Rev. W. J. Fiddes at the 11:00 A.M. service and Rev. J. M. Copeland at the 7:30 evening service. Special music in the evening was by the Grace United Church choir, Caledonia. Assisting in the Service of worship that day were former ministers Rev. G. F. Morris, Rev. H. Brand, Rev. J. T. Heslop and Rev. T. Harold Ackert. The minister at that time was Rev. James A. Gale. Not only has the Unity Church carried on a witness for Jesus Christ in the area but there have been several go out from the congregation to serve Christ in the wide Mission work of the Church. There are as well those sons and daughters who, although they have moved away, have not forgotten the heritage that they have received here.

The 100th anniversary of Unity United Church took place on Sunday, September 13th at 2:30 P.M., 1964. It was a perfect autumn day and a record crowd of over 300 friends packed the little church. The little old church stood solid and square despite the buffeting of storms for over one hundred years. Two former ministers, Rev. Edward Shaw and Rev. J. T. Hyslop were in attendance. Rev. Sheridan Bole of Hamilton was the guest speaker. Mr. Jack Stubbs sang two beautiful solos accompanied by Miss Luella Keefer. Mr. Jack Stubb's grandfather attended Unity Sunday School and is laid to rest in the adjoining cemetery.

Rev. Edward W. Shaw's message in the annual report of Unity Church of 1957 spoke of the parable of Jesus about the work of yeast in the dough and how it quietly works until the whole of the dough is

leavened. The spiritual influences of the Church in this community cannot be measured, the leavening agency of the yeast is still at work.

In 1949 Unity Church ceased to have regular 2:00 P.M. services. It amalgamated with Grace United Church in Caledonia with Rev. J.A. McKim as the minister. Up until that time it had been a two point charge. There was considerable ill feeling toward the closing but the majority of the congregation at Unity felt that it was impractical to try to carry on. Some of the former Unity congregation journeyed to Caledonia to attend the 11:00 A.M. service at Grace United, some went elsewhere and sad to say some quit attending anywhere.

Ministers of the Caledonia Charge since 1949 are:	
The Rev. J.A. McKim	1949 - 1952
The Rev. Elson (interim supply)	1952 - 1953
The Rev. Edward W. Shaw	1953 - 1960
The Rev. William Gibb	1960 - 1965
The Rev. Douglas A Muir	1965 - 1975
The Rev. S. Douglas Dunlop	1975 - 1980
The Rev. Donald H. Nicholson	1980 - 1988
The Rev. Jim Young (interim supply)	1988 - 1989
The Rev. Bob Nightingale	1989 -

Interest was maintained in the Church and cemetery and a cemetery and trustee board was formed to look after the perpetual care of the church, cemetery and grounds. The following members made up the board as recorded in the annual report of 1949.

Unity Cemetery Board

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Chairman, Mr. Hedley Smuck,
 Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. Norman Whaley,
 Auditor, Mr. John E. Parker.
 Mr. Leslie Parke, Mr. Ross Howley and Mr. Eric Lindsay.

At a Congregational meeting held May 9th, 1949 at Mr. Norman Hawthorne's the following Committee was chosen as Stewards and to act as Trustees for Unity Church: Norman Hawthorne, Norman Whaley, Stanley Parker, Ross Howley, Hedley Smuck and Eric Lindsay.

Treasurer's Report Unity Cemetery Board - 1949

RECEIPTS		EXPENDITURES	
Cash on hand Jan. 1, 1949	38.57	Ward Grinyer, care of	
Bond cashed	100.00	cemetery	100.03
Anniversary collection	203.82	Cash in bank	296.59
Donations	53.82		
Interest	.41		
	\$ 396.62		\$ 396.62

One Bond of \$ 300.00 of Louise Parke Bequest is deposited in Canadian Bank of Commerce at 3 per cent

Secretary-Treasurer Norman Whaley
 John E. Parker, Auditor

Contributions Unity 1949

Mr. and Mrs. Sam E. Benedict
 Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Berry
 Mr. and Mrs. Fred J. Beveridge Mr. Orlan Beveridge
 Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Beveridge and Mary
 Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Carver
 Mrs. Ella F. Carver
 Mrs. Bertha A. Dixon and Allan
 Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Farrell
 Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Gilchrist
 Mr. Ward and Miss Verlie Grinyer
 Mr. and Mrs. Norman Hawthorne
 Mr. and Mrs. Harvey L. Howley
 Mr. and Mrs. S. Ross Howley and Family
 Mr. and Mrs. Lorne J. Killman
 Mr. and Mrs. J. Eric Lindsay and Family
 Mr. Louis McKibbon and Miss Ethel McKibbon
 Miss Laura McLean
 Mr. Leslie Parke
 Mrs. Coral Parke and Family
 Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Parke
 Mr. Leonard Parke
 Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Parker
 Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Parker
 Mr. and Mrs. John Parker
 Mr. and Mrs. Jack Parker and Marie Mr. and Mrs. Allan Parker
 Mrs. Cora Parker and Nelson
 Mr. J. Hedley Smuck and Family
 Mrs. Wm. Whaley
 Mr. and Mrs. Norman W. Whaley

An annual service is held every September when former members and friends gather to worship and honour the memory of those who lived and worshipped here. On September 10, 1989 Unity celebrated with its 40th annual service since closing, and the 125th anniversary of the founding of the church. After the well attended service the congregation met in the nicely groomed church yard for fellowship with sandwiches, cookies, small cakes and tea, coffee and cold drinks for the children. Rev. Bob Nightingale, the present minister of the charge gave an inspiring message, praising the faith and commitment that the community still has. The offering from these annual services defrays the cost of the upkeep of the buildings and insurance and the perpetual care of the cemetery.

Early memories of the 1920's are of the garden parties held in the orchard at Mr. and Mrs. Norman Hawthorne's sponsored by the Womens' Missionary Society. Also in the 1920's and early 1930's the day school at Welcome used to assist the Unity Sunday School with the annual Christmas concerts. Students spent many afternoons just before the concert practicing their parts on the stage at the church with their drills, recitations, dialogues and skits. There was always a full church as the community responded to the effort put forth by the school teachers, Miss Mary Dobbin and later by Miss Mary Kindree and the Sunday School teachers.

Unity was blessed with dedicated Sunday School Superintendants and teachers. In 1920 Mr. James Lindsay was Sunday School Superintendant, followed in later years by his son Eric. Teachers were Mrs. John Hull, Miss Louise Parke, Mrs. James (Ester Ellen) Bothwright, and Mrs. Wm. Berry.

A class of boys will always be grateful for Mrs. Fred Beveridge Sr. in the early 1930's.

They included: Arthur Parke, Fred Beveridge, Milward Whaley, Frank Whaley, Bruce Whaley, Stanley Parke, Harold Bothwright, Grant Hawthorne, and possibly others.





At the turn of the century there was an active Mens' Bible class that included : L.to R Allan Parker, -- ? -- Sidney Parke, Stanley Parker, Leslie Parke, Henry McKee, and seated front centre with the open bible, Mr. William Whaley.



front row: Mrs. Norman Hawthorne, Mrs. Wm. Beveridge, Mrs. William Whaley, Mrs. Allan Dixon, Mrs. Matthew Richardsen.

back row: Mr. Norman Whaley, Mr. John Parker, Mr. Ross Howley, Mr. Sidney Parke, Mr. Stanley Parker, Mr. Leonard Parker.

Pay tribute of praise and respect to the memory of the pioneers of Methodism in this country. They were men and women who concentrated their care and talents to the furtherance of God's Kingdom here on earth, not for any reward which they might reap for themselves but they laboured for the sake of the generations which were to follow them.

In February 1978 disaster struck Unity Church. A 133 Km./hour windstorm ripped off part of the roof and dumped debris, wood and bricks and snow on the altar and pews. The piano was only slightly damaged. The panelled ceiling was strewn over the interior and exposed painted murals and printing on the walls and ceiling at the front of the church. Insurance and Brenzil Construction carefully replaced the polished wooden ceiling and replaced the shingled roof with corrugated metal. Rev. Douglas Dunlop was the minister at the time and Mr. Lorne Parke was the chairman of the trustees.

I am indebted to Mrs. Mary Nelles and Mrs. Doris Thompson for notes and clippings from scrap books and research papers; to Rev. Donald Nicholson for sharing part of his thesis on the History of the Church and its Ministry and to my mother, Mrs. Coral Parke for her notes and records of Unity W.M.S. It has enabled me to put together this recollection of my childhood Church where I attended church and Sunday School and where my father, Sidney Parke had the honour of serving as an elder and as Sunday School Superintendent. I would also like to thank Bruce Whaley for the loan of clippings from back copies of the Grand River Sachem that are on pages, (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) that have been photo-copied and follow at the end of this pamphlet.

G. Stanley Parke,
Caledonia, Ontario,
March 30, 1990.

OUR LINK WITH THE PAST

We keep forgetting what our fathers have done for us,
We eat food from farmland we did not develop,
We live in communities we did not establish,
We should remember the generations that have gone on before
whose faith and works have enriched our lives.

Quote by Edmund Burke:-

People will not look forward to posterity who never looked backward to their ancestors.

Remember the days of old,
think of the generations long ago;
ask your ancestors to recount it
and your elders to tell you the tale.

Copied from Grand River Sachem

about 1903

UNITY AUXILIARY W.M.S.

The monthly meeting of the Auxiliary of Caledonia Methodist W.M.S. was held at the home of Mrs. Henry McKee on January 14th, there being seventeen women present.

The afternoon was spent in sewing until tea, after which a prayer meeting was held. The society sends out annually a bale of warm clothing, quilts, carpet, etc., to aid the needy missionaries.

The society financially is in a flourishing condition, having raised in the past year, besides members' fees \$46.05, which included \$11.00 from Mr. Whicher, who now gives a donation of \$2.00 per month.

The meeting being held on Mrs. McKee's birthday, the society presented her with a handsome hymn book with music and the following address:

Dear Mrs. McKee,--

We have learned that this is your birthday. We wish you many happy returns, with as many blessings added, as God in his infinite wisdom sees fit to bestow upon you.

We have realized your worth as a worker for the Master, and have appreciated your ability and willingness to aid us in our church and choir; in our Sunday School as teacher and in our society as organist. and to show our appreciation of your services and our good wishes on this your birthday, we ask you to accept this hymn book. We trust you will see fit to long remain with us, but should we be separated here, may this little book be a gentle reminder of our love for you, until we meet to sing the songs of the redeemed around our Father's throne in Heaven.

Mrs. R. McKibbon, Pres.
Mrs. J. Lindsay, Sec'y.