

HUNDRED YEARS' HISTORY

FIRST REGULAR
BAPTIST CHURCH
SIMCOE

1836 — REV. WILLIAM SMITH

1936 — REV. F. H. WENTWORTH

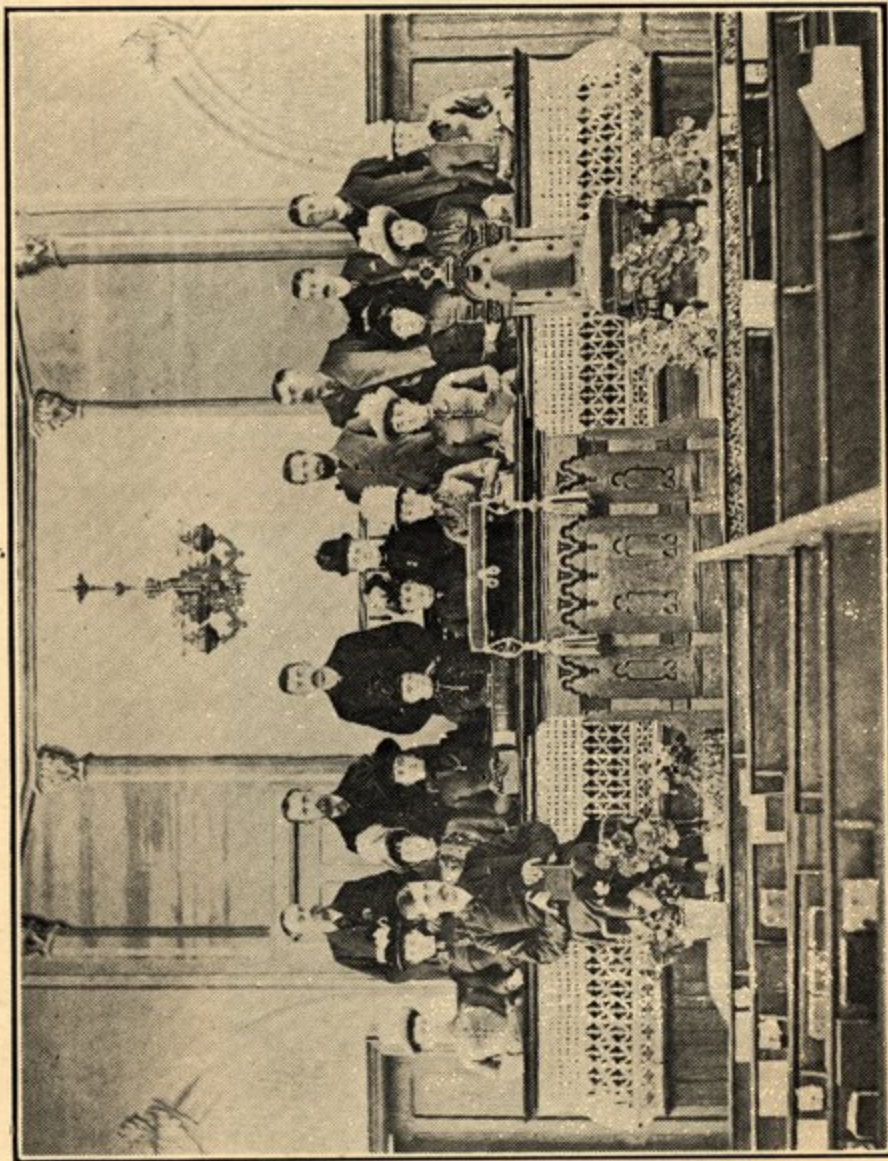
HISTORIAN — A. E. CULVER



FIRST REGULAR BAPTIST CHURCH, SIMCOE



Rev. F. H. Wentworth, Pastor



SIMCOE BAPTIST CHURCH CHOIR, 1888—NEARLY HALF A CENTURY AGO

The Minister, Mr. Carey. Front Row (left to right)—Lola Collver, Mrs. James Collins, Miss Tripp, Mrs. Churchill, Mrs. Brook, Mrs. Louis Beemer, Julia Pegg, Miss Ethie Potts (Mrs. Oliver Austin), Miss Brett, Mary Burr, Miss Annie Austin (Mrs. R. E. Gunton). Back Row—Newton Challen, Joseph Snively, Mr. Culver, Mrs. Letta Collver (Organist), Joseph Brook, Albert Adams, George Austin, A. E. Culver.

1836 - - Church History - - 1936



Previous to one hundred years ago a number of residents in and near Simcoe who were members of the 1st Regular Baptist Church of Charlotteville (Vittoria) and of the 2nd Regular Baptist Church of Townsend (Bloomsburg) had counselled together re the organization of a Baptist Church in the growing village of Simcoe, and it was decided to call a meeting for the purpose of considering such organization.

Church history, like other history, is simply a link between the past and the present. The following is a copy of the minutes as recorded in the first Minute Book of the Church:

Book of Records for the Regular Baptist Church in Simcoe, Talbot District, C.W.

By request of the Second Regular Baptist Church of Christ in Townsend we whose names are hereafter written, being delegated by our respective churches, met at Simcoe on Saturday, July 9th, 1836. Meeting was opened by Elder Wm. Reese by singing and prayer.

The letters from the different churches were then read and a list of the delegated brethren taken, viz.:

Brantford 1st Church—Elder Wm. Reese, Deacon Donald, Mr. McDermid and Benjamin Hazelton.

First Townsend Church (Boston)—Elder John Harris, Deacon Richard McMichael, Deacon Wm. Cunningham, Uriah Curtis, Moses Barber, Ziba Wm. Canfield, Ezra Parney, Levett Beal, Joseph Johnson, and Wm. Walker.

First Charlotteville Church (Vittoria)—Deacon Oliver Mabey, Deacon John Chadwick, Samuel Smith, John Shearer, and David Shearer.

Walsingham Church (Port Rowan)—J. Troyer.

3rd Townsend Church (Hartford)—Henry Cunningham, Deacon Abraham Vanloon.

Burford Church (Scotland)—Elder Francis Pickle, Deacon Howard, Samuel Munger and Wm. Bartholomew.

2nd Charlotteville (Forestville)—Deacon Benjamin Palmerton, John Deece.

Middleton Church (Delhi)—Deacon McClellan.

2nd Townsend Church (Bloomsburg)—Elder G. J. Ryerse.

Bro. Elliott from the United States was invited to a seat with us, after which Elder Wm. Reese was chosen Moderator and Elder George J. Ryerse, Clerk, which council was received by the church who appointed Elder Ryerse to speak in their behalf.

The following list of members from the 2nd Townsend Church, and the 1st Charlotteville Church were then presented by Deacon Alonzo Hatch, who was appointed to speak in their behalf, to be organized into a church to be called the Regular Baptist Church of Christ of Simcoe, viz.—

5 From 2nd Townsend Church—John Stage, Permelia Stage, Elizabeth Stage, Loving Post and Wm. Smith.

7 From 1st Charlotteville Church—Solomon Austin, Walter Downs, Deacon Alonzo Hatch, Damaris Hatch, Amanda Downs, Ephraim Wheeler and Lucratia Wheeler.

The Council then asked the above-named churches if their members were in union and if they were willing they should be organized as requested, which was answered in the affirmative. Deacon Hatch then presented the Articles of Faith of the Western Association which they adopted.

The Council then withdrew by themselves and after mutual consultation agreed that the request of the brethren was proper and should be granted, and that they be organized on the morrow, and that Elder Wm. Reese preach the organization sermon, Elder Francis Pickle to give the charge, Elder George J. Ryerse to give the hand of fellowship and make the concluding prayer.

First Ordination

The Council returned and proceeded to the examination of Bro. Wm. Smith as to his fitness for the work of the

Ministry. He was first presented by the church as a candidate for ordination with their reasons for so doing. Bro. Smith then related his Christian experience, his call to the ministry, doctrinal views on church government and Communion.

The Council then withdrew and after mutual consultation returned and declared to the church that they were unanimously agreed that Bro. Wm. Smith is a proper candidate for ordination and that he be set apart to the work of the Ministry on the morrow. Elder John Harris to preach the ordination sermon, Elder Wm. Reese to give the charge, Elder Francis Pickle to make the consecrating prayer and unite with the Elders present in laying on of Hands, Elder John Harris to give the hand of fellowship, and the candidate to give out the concluding hymn and pronounce the benediction.

Sunday Morning—Met according to yesterday's appointment, which was fulfilled and concluded accordingly. We trust to general edification and the glory of God.

George J. Ryerse, Clerk.

The first business meeting of the church was held at the School House, Simcoe, Aug. 13, 1836, at which Alonzo Hatch was appointed Church Clerk, and John Stage was appointed Deacon.

Evidently the regular church services were held in the School House and at the homes of members.

The second recorded business meeting was held at Alonzo Hatch's home, on Feb. 11, 1837, when Mr. Hatch was appointed 2nd Deacon. The membership had increased to nineteen at the end of the year.

In November 1837 a business meeting was held, at which they decided to build a place of worship.

A committee was appointed to solicit subscriptions and collect moneys to finance their plan.

The following names appear as the first appointed trustees: Elder Wm. Smith, Solomon Austin and Nelson Vail.

Resolved: That the name of our House of Worship be called "Bethsaida."

We find no further minutes until June 12, 1841, when the membership had reached 50.

This first church was built upon the present site, northwest corner of Young and Talbot Streets. The building was

frame, about 40x60 feet in size. This chapel must have been used in an unfinished condition, as the minutes of above date referred to the appointment of a committee to have the building finished. Shortly the building was moved to a lot on the east side of Colborne Street, north of Mr. Abbey's present store. The reason for moving the church was because of lack of drainage in the village, the water at times raising two feet high about the building. In order to finance this moving and purchase of another lot, the Pastor, Rev. Wm. Smith, went to New York State and secured funds for same. It remained there until it burned in the month of July, 1867.

In January 1839, Rev. Wm. Smith resigned and Wm. Reese was called as pastor in February. Wm. Eirth was called as pastor in 1845 and ordained on March 5th of the same year. During this pastorate a division in membership happened and 27 members withdrew, later forming a Second Church, which was in existence until January 1863, when under the ministry of Rev. J. E. Ryerson the two churches were brought together and united in one stronger body, worshipping for some time in the Second Church building, which is the brick building at present standing just south of Turvey's store, it being sold to the New Connection Methodists in 1868. A building known as the Old Mud Church was used for worship, it stood where Mr. P. O. Austin's Marble Works are, southwest corner of Colborne and Young Streets.

In January 1864 J. E. Vining became pastor and was ordained in March of the same year.

The church records show that Rev. Aaron Slaght had supplied at intervals, and given counsel many times which was very much appreciated by the church.

Rev. A. Scott became pastor in 1867. A new brick church was built on this present site during his ministry, and opened on Sept. 9th, 1869. Rev. A. Scott was the writer of the Church History which was placed in the cornerstone of the new church by the Rev. Aaron Slaght, pastor of the Waterford church, assisted by Rev. T. L. Davidson of Aylmer.

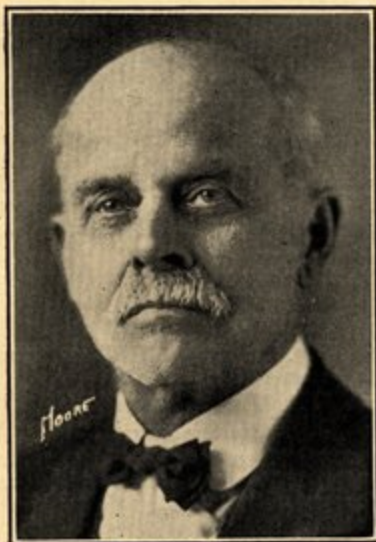
At this time the following brethren were acting Deacons: Lyman Wells, Hiram Schuyler, John Winch and Henry Foster.

The following members have served as Deacons since its organization: John

Stage, Alonzo Hatch, Wm. E. Burr, Lyman Wells, Cyrus Little, John Winch, Thos. B. Sweet, Wm. Bartholomew, Hiram Schuyler, Nelson Vail, Wm. Schuyler, John Beemer, Isaac Church and John T. Smith, as recorded in Sept. 1869.

The church was completed early in 1871. Several additions by baptism during the next few years.

During the next decade there were several changes in pastors. The church entertained the Association on June 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10, 1877. Rev. T. L. Davidson of Aylmer preached the associational sermon on the Sabbath.



MR. NEWTON CHALLEN

Mr. N. Challen was appointed Church Clerk in January, 1880, serving for three years. He has been in some active service, either as Deacon, Trustee, S.S. Superintendent, Financial Secretary, Choir Member, Advisory Board, and for the last number of years as Honorary Deacon. He was baptized June 6, 1869.

We notice that a baptistry was put into the church and used for the first time on March 3rd, 1872, when Chas. Wilder was baptized, he being the grandfather of Mr. Cecil Gifford, our present S.S. secretary. During the spring of 1884 a series of evangelistic services was held and a large number were baptized and added to the church, your historian being one of the num-

ber, Rev. J. B. Moore assisting the Pastor, Rev. P. C. Parker.

In 1881 all indebtedness against the church property was fully paid and the mortgage burned.

For the next twenty-five years nothing of real historic importance happened in the church. Like all similar bodies it had its ups and downs, its seasons of spiritual refreshing and normal periods. Our young people became very active and have remained so ever since. This is referred to in another section.

Then on the 18th of April, 1913, the church and community suffered its second severe loss from the burning of the church.

Mr. Fred Pursel kindly offered the use of his theatre for Sunday worship, which was accepted graciously for some time. Then a hall of Mr. R. W. Wallace became available and we could be more at home there, not having to remove books and equipment each week. It was while we were worshipping here that Rev. H. C. Newcombe became our pastor. No doubt his pastorate of thirteen years will remain as the most memorable of any in the History of the Church. As leader he assisted in lifting the church from a bed of ashes, first into one of the most efficient Sunday School Halls in Western Ontario, in which we worshipped until May of 1922, when the auditorium was completed and dedicated to the Master's service.

The plant known as the First Regular Baptist Church of Simcoe is a credit to the members of the church, who have worked faithfully and unitedly in reducing the debt from a cost of \$90,000 to the last \$9,000. The membership are truly thankful to those of the community and other sister denominations who have contributed of their moneys and kind fellowship in making our church efforts possible. Our Parsonage was given to the Church about 1895 by the late Deacon Robert Young.

Our church property, like many other church properties, is a wonderful asset to the community where they are located, not only materially but spiritually and socially.

As times have changed and need presented new duties, our church has met the situation by creating new organizations within its membership to assist in the betterment of local conditions and keep interested in all missionary interests of our denomination, as well

as help maintain several general welfare projects, local and provincial.

Sketches of each sub-organization will appear in accompanying paragraphs.

The names of the early Pastors of this aged church will be of peculiar interest to those who may be through family relationship connected in establishing the foreground of our large and progressive church. The first pastor was Rev. Wm. Smith, followed consecutively by: Elder William Reese, Elder Erith, Rev. Timothy Bailey, Rev. S. McConnell, Rev. A. Austin, Rev. T. W. Pritchard, Rev. C. G. Parrett, Rev. Geo. Reeks, Rev. Joseph Bryning, Rev. Jos. Painter, Rev. J. E. Ryerson, Elder S. Cunningham, Rev. Geo. Wilson, Rev. W. H. Jones, Bro. J. E. Vining, Elder A. Austin; Rev. A. Scott, 1867-1871; Rev. W. T. Walker, 1871-1874; Rev. H. P. Fitch, 1874-1878; Rev. J. Alexander, 1879; Bro. D. B. Davidson, 1880-82; Rev. Dr. J. B. McDonald, 1882-1884; Rev. P. C. Parker, 1884-88; Rev. T. H. Carey, 1888-90; Rev. D. Dack, 1891-1901; Dr. Andrew Murdoch, 1901; Dr. Fothergill, 1902-1905; Rev. Dr. P. K. Dayfoot, 1905-1911; Rev. Dr. B. F. Bryan, 1911-13; Rev. H. C. Newcombe, B.A., 1913-26; Rev. Pinnock (supply) while Rev. Newcombe was overseas; Rev. F. H. Wentworth, present pastor, 1926—. Several of these pastors were only three and six-month supplies; the dates of pastorates are only given for the past 69 years.

Rev. P. C. Parker was pastor and preached the 50th anniversary sermon and compiled and read the history of the church on that occasion, and ten years later returned and preached the Diamond Jubilee sermon.

An observation and worthy of notice is the fact that descendants of several of the church's pioneer families have continued in membership and active in maintaining the church's many activities. We might mention the Austins, descendants of Solomon Austin and J. S. Austin; the Vails, as descendants of Nelson Vail; Mrs. R. W. Wallace and Miss E. Steinhoff, descendants of Deacon Lyman Wells; the Schuylers, descendants from Hiram, William and Francis Schuyler. The Collins family were pioneers also. Deacon Primus Smith was Clerk in the forties, our Rev. R. E. Smith is a direct descendant. Our honored Miss Hatch of India is a close relative of Alonzo Hatch, one of the charter members, and our friend, Mrs. Lillian Darling, just south of Simcoe, is also a direct relative. Mrs. Wm.

Skinner is a descendant of the pioneer. Deacon Wm. E. Burr. Others have been added to the membership who have taken up the work with a will and purpose to do God's work in this place.

At the present time, 1936, the following are the Trustees: Messrs. R. W. Wallace, J. Alex. Wallace, and J. C. Kayser.

Honourary Deacons—Mr. Newton Challen, Rev. M. E. Siple, Rev. H. C. Newcombe, Rev. R. E. Smith.

Deacons—Messrs. A. W. Baldwin, H. H. Wilson, Samuel Schuyler, H. L. Dawes, J. Alex. Wallace, Ira Miller and P. G. McDonald.

Clerk—Mr. Harry C. Judd; Assistant Clerk, Mr. H. Dreher; Missionary Treasurer, Miss Dorothy Walton; Church Treasurer, Mr. Ira Miller; Financial Secretary, Mr. V. Mathews.

Advisory Board, in addition to above: Messrs. H. R. Crabbe, W. A. Ostrander, A. E. Culver, A. W. Baldwin, T. E. Vail, Chester Fleming, Stanley Whiting, Cecil Gifford and Henry Whitehead.

The following preachers were ordained at the Simcoe church:

Rev. Wm. Smith, the first pastor.

Rev. Wm. Erith, the third pastor, was ordained on March 5th, 1845.

Rev. J. E. Vining, March, 1864.

Rev. R. E. Smith, June 2, 1903.

The ordination of the latter was quite an outstanding occasion as he was leaving as a missionary for India in October.

Rev. Oliver E. Broughton, 1926.

Rev. Ralph Wilson, one of our boys, was ordained to the ministry at another church.

Today, after 100 years existence of a Christian evangelistic church it is difficult to estimate the effect of its moral and Christian guidance upon the people of the community.

I notice that the pastor and deacons in the early days of the church were very observant of any unchristian manners or habits of its members. Committees, many, were appointed to visit the offenders and report to the church, and if they did not acknowledge their error they would be dropped from membership. One instance—Members were visited for playing a game of croquet. Another where a member thought the pastor called too frequently at a neighbor's place. How times have changed!

The Sunday School



Sunday School records are commonly not preserved very carefully. Unfortunately this is true of our Sunday School. But from the old minute book of the church it appears that Mr. Asa Cook organized a Sunday School in 1846 and became its first Superintendent. A minute under date of 25th March, 1848, states that "Mr. Asa Cook was appointed to superintend the Sunday School, which it was voted should commence next Sunday." Another minute under date of 21st December, 1851, states that it was "resolved: 1st, that it is expedient and right to have a Sabbath School, and that we hold it immediately after public service in the morning; 2nd, That we solicit Mr. D. M. Haskin to take the charge of the school, who was unanimously chosen and accepted the same."

This Mr. Haskin was a public school teacher and apparently was in charge of the Sunday School for a short time only.

Whether we are to conclude from the first of these minutes that the Sunday School organized in 1846 was the first Sunday School of the church or not cannot be definitely decided. At any rate Mr. Asa Cook, who became superintendent at that time, served in this important office for something like 25 years. He was a most enthusiastic Sunday School worker and loved the children and the work of instructing them in the knowledge of the Bible. For many years he was not only the superintendent of the Simcoe Sunday School, but the superintendent also of the Sunday School at Vittoria. It was his custom to conduct the school at Simcoe in the morning and then to walk to Vittoria and conduct the school there. This he did rain or shine. And for a period of eleven years never missed a Sunday.

Although the incomplete nature of the Sunday School records do not permit the giving of a definitely complete list of the superintendents who followed Mr. Cook, yet it would appear that the following served as superintendents for varying periods:

D. M. Haskin, Nathan Pegg, James Burgess, John Gunton, Charles Clouse, Newton Challen, W. W. Pegg, D. B. Wallace, Albert Adams, W. B. Tom-

linson, J. H. Butler, Rev. P. K. Dayfoot, H. R. Crabb.



MR. HENRY. R. CRABB
Sunday School Superintendent Since
February 1906.

Mr. Henry R. Crabb was appointed superintendent in February 1906, and has continued to fill that office from that day to the present time—a period of well over 30 years, which constitutes a record. Under him the school has prospered greatly. In 1905 the average attendance was 100; in 1906 it was 129; in 1935 it was 269, while on single Sundays the attendance has gone over the 350 mark, one Sunday being as high as 388. During Mr. Crabb's term of office many events of importance have occurred. Rev. P. K. Dayfoot, D.D., during his pastorate, gave great impetus to Sunday School activities. This was to be expected from one so widely known for his notes on the S.S. Lessons. Soon after his coming it became necessary to remodel the Sunday School room. The Building Committee considered that a room with a seating capacity of 200 would be sufficient. But on the opening Sunday the attendance was 202.

Programme

SIMCOE BAPTIST CHURCH

1836—Centennial Anniversary Services—1936

July 5th to July 12th, 1936

THE FIRST GREAT DAY OF THE FEAST

Sunday, July 5

- 11.00 a.m.—Centennial Sermon—Rev. Capt. Ralph E. Smith, B.A., B.Th.
(Communion Service).
2.45 p.m.—Great Sunday School Rally. Address by Rev. E. J. Whan.
7.00 p.m.—Anniversary Sermon—Rev. H. C. Newcombe, B.A.

Monday, July 6

- 8.00 p.m.—**Religious Education Night**—B.Y.P.U. and Sunday School.
Addresses by Prof. N. H. Parker, B.Sc., Th.D., of McMaster
University, and Dr. P. K. Dayfoot, Port Colborne.

Tuesday, July 7

- 8.00 p.m.—**Visitors' Night**—Greetings from Churches of the Association.
Address by Rev. W. K. Roberts, M.A., B.D., Pastor of The
First Baptist Church, Brantford, Ont.

Wednesday, July 8

- 8.00 p.m.—**Church Night**—Historic Gleanings by Archie Culver. Brief
Service of Remembrance by Rev. H. C. Newcombe, B.A.
Social Hour. Receiving of Birthday gifts. Refreshments.

Thursday, July 9

- 8.00 p.m.—**Foreign Mission Night**—Address by Rev. Dr. H. E. Stillwell,
General Secretary, Canadian Baptist Foreign Mission Board.
Subject: "THE GREAT BETRAYAL AND AN EFFORT AT
REDEMPTION."

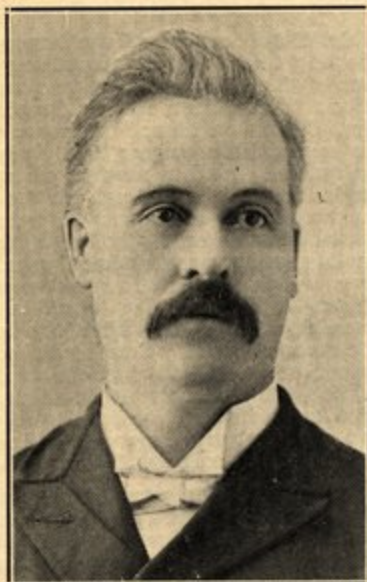
Friday, July 10

- 8.00 p.m.—**Old Home Night**—Brief messages from those who have gone
from this church into the work of the ministry either at home
or abroad—Rev. Ralph Willson, Leith, Ont. Rev. O. E.
Broughton, B.A., B.Th., Springford, Ont., Mrs. Aubrey Hunt,
of West Africa, and Rev. Ralph E. Smith, B.A., B.Th., of India.
THE CHOIR OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, BRANT-
FORD, under the direction of Mr. Frederic Lord, will present
a musical programme.

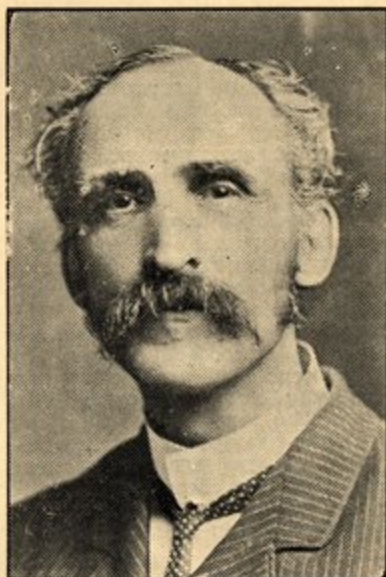
THE LAST GREAT DAY OF THE FEAST

Sunday, July 12

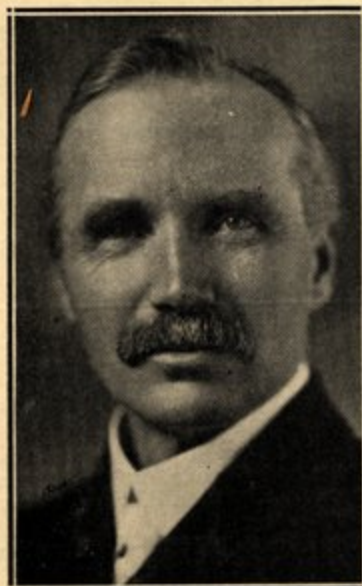
- 9.45 a.m.—SUNDAY SCHOOL.
11.00 a.m.—Special Sermon by Rev. M. E. Siple of Jarvis, an honored
member and deacon of this church.
7.00 p.m.—Closing Message by the Pastor, Rev. F. H. Wentworth.
(Baptisms).



REV. D. DACK
Pastor 1891-1901



REV. DR. P. K. DAYFOOT
Pastor 1905-1911



REV. H. C. NEWCOMBE, B.A.
Pastor 1913-1926



REV. R. E. SMITH, B.A., B.Th.
Baptist Missionary in India, now on
Furlough.

In the spring of 1913 the Church and Sunday School were burned and for nearly a year the church services and Sunday School were held in the hall very kindly loaned by Trustee R. W. Wallace. During the pastorate of the Rev. H. C. Newcombe the present Sunday School Hall was built. This commodious building, with its excellent and convenient arrangement of the classrooms, has been the admiration of all who have seen it. Here for eight years, until the church was built, the church services were held. And here every Sunday during the Sunday School hour, may now be heard the cheery hum and bustle of the large and efficient Sunday School in session. All the senior and intermediate classes are thoroughly organized and carry on numerous activities in addition to Bible instruction. The sum total of their accomplishments has been very great indeed. Most of the men and women now active in our church work and many in other churches, received their early training in this efficient Sunday School.

When Capt. Newcombe and many of the young men of the school went overseas during the Great War those who remained presented each man of the battalion with two pairs of home knit socks and later sent many boxes. And a number of young men from the school lie asleep in Flanders Fields and at Vimy.

In the past one of the most faithful friends and most generous givers to the school was Sister Catherine Burr. In Feb. 1919 she called on Superintendent Crabb and his wife and presented them with a new one dollar bill for the Sunday School. It was small compared with her former gifts and she

informed the Superintendent that she was sorry to say that she would not be able to make any more contributions.

Mr. Crabb conceived the happy idea of using this dollar as something more than a gift. He had it framed and entitled: "Foundation Dollar donated by Mrs. Catharine Burr," and put it up for competition among the classes of the school in the matter of raising funds for the building of the new church. Each class was to bring its contribution in on Rally Day (the first Sunday in November) each year. The class which won it had the privilege of hanging it on the walls of its classroom for the year. With the aid of this competition the Sunday School has raised over \$20,000 for the Building Fund since February 1919. This is in addition to its contributions to missions and its current expenses. "And we still have the original dollar."

Space will not permit the mention of the many officers and teachers who have so faithfully served their Master in the school since its inception ninety years ago. Their services have been voluntarily and gladly given and the fruit of their labours is seen in the many who have gone forth from the school, thoroughly instructed in the Word of God and trained to Christian service. One of these officers may, however, be mentioned. Ted Challen has spent more than forty years in the school in never-failing, faithful and humble service.

At the present time there is a staff of thirty officers and teachers, 350 scholars on the roll, 100 on the cradle roll, and 40 in the Home Department, i.e., a total of 520.

REV. R. E. SMITH,
B.A., B.Th.

B. Y. P. U.



About 1884 a Young People's Society was formed in the Simcoe Baptist Church by the Rev. Mr. Turnbull, who was pastor for only a short time. It was more of a literary society, meeting usually at the various homes.

On July 7-8, 1891, the first really representative gathering of Baptist Young People was held in Chicago to form a National Organization, with 1621 delegates present from the United

States and Canada, eight of these from Canada. Here the B.Y.P.U. of America began.

On May 4-5, 1892, a convention was held in Bloor Street Baptist Church with 800 delegates and the B.Y.P.U. of Ontario and Quebec organized.

As the call had gone out to all the young people to form unions, Simcoe was interested and sent as delegates the president, the late R. E. Gunton,

and the secretary, the late G. R. Austin to the second International Convention held in the Armouries at Detroit, July 1892. As a result, in the fall of 1892 our local union was organized at the home of the pastor, Rev. D. Dack, on Culver Street.

The membership at its organization consisted of 13 chartered members who were members of the church and signed their name to the B.Y.P.U. pledge. Later an associate membership was added. These young people were regular attendants at the meetings but were not members of the church.

Names of Chartered Members

Mr. George R. Austin.

Miss Annie Austin (Mrs. R. E. Gunton).

Mr. R. E. Gunton.

Miss Lucy Gunton (Mrs. Harrop).

Miss Rhoda Church (Mrs. P. O. Austin).

Miss Gertrude Rattenbury (Mrs. Hinsley).

Miss Bertha Sherck (Mrs. Shuttleworth).

Miss Alice Sherck (Mrs.)

Miss Jessie Carey (Mrs. W. H. Wallace).

Miss Martha Peachey.

Miss Ethelda Wallace (the late Mrs. Chas. Emerson).

Miss Lola Culver (Mrs. S. Schuyler).

Mr. A. E. Culver.

Thus our union, which was firmly founded in 1892 with a membership of 13 has steadily grown through many difficult times until we now have a flourishing union of about 60 members.

To us has come the torch to carry on. Let us not fail.

MISS SARAH WALLACE.

The Choir



Looking backward into the history of the First Baptist Church Choir of Simcoe, since the year 1836, there were very few items recorded until 1917, so what I am giving you is information I have received from relatives and friends of that time.

The Choir has supplied its own music nearly all of that time, only during the leadership of Mr. A. M. Barber, he was not only leader, but gave the music to the church free, which surely meant a great assistance.

The Choir still supports this work, by giving and sponsoring concerts. Most of the leaders and organists received little or no salary until this last few years.

In 1917, the Choir, under the leadership of Mr. P. G. Marshall, organized, making their own rules, and electing their own officers. It was in that year the Choir started wearing gowns.

Some of the outstanding members of the first Choir were Mrs. John Thompson, mother of Miss Bertha Thompson, who used to walk from Port Dover and back again for the practice and for church services; also Mr. Wm. Collins,

father of Mrs. James Smith, who used to walk back and forth from near Lynn Valley and carry his organ, that they used at that time, for practice and church services. Mrs. James Smith also walked that distance to help in the Choir.

The following are some of the leaders and organists: Mr. Isaac Church, Mr. Wm. Collins, Mr. Joseph Coggins, Mr. David B. Wallace, Mr. Egbert Kitchen, Mr. Joseph Brook, Mr. Albert Adams, Mr. A. M. Barber; Mrs. Thomas Little, sister of Mrs. Robert Gunton; Miss M. Kitchen; Mrs. C. H. Emerson, sister of Mr. J. A. Wallace; Mrs. John A. Collver, Professor Adams, Miss Cheeney, Mrs. Cassidy, Mrs. Brock Le Pan, Mrs. Archie Culver, Mrs. H. H. Schuyler, Mr. Delbert Piette, Mr. Albert Piette, Mrs. Halmshaw, Mr. P. G. Marshall, Mrs. P. G. Marshall, Mr. Raymond Williams, Mrs. Victor Mathews, Mrs. F. H. Wentworth.

Some of the members of the earlier Choirs who are still living are: Mr. Newton Challen, Mrs. Robert Gunton, Miss Julia Pegg, Port Huron; Mrs. Samuel Schuyler, Mr. Archie Culver, Mrs. H. H. Schuyler, Mrs. P. O. Austin, Mrs. George Austin.

Officers For 1936

Organist—Mrs. Victor Mathews.

Hon. President—Miss Minnie Wark.

President—Mrs. Elijah Mark.

Sec.-Treas.—Miss Gladys Thomas.

Music Librarian—Miss Gertrude Marshall.

Assistant Librarian—Miss Margaret House.

Gown Stewardess—Mrs. Ida Summerhayes.

Managing Committee—Miss Pettit, Mrs. Elizabeth Miller, Mr. Henry Whitehead, Mr. Ira Miller.

Social Convener—Mrs. Thos. Toombs.

We have Friday night for practise, and when we are putting on cantatas for Christmas, Easter, etc., why of course we have extra practise.

MYRRH MARK.

The Women's Mission Circle



The following is a resume of the history and work of the Women's Mission Circle of this church.

For a length of time the work of Missions was carried on in connection with the Ladies' Aid, three-fifths of all monies raised going for the church and two-fifths for missions.

In 1879 Mrs. John Alexander (our pastor's wife), with her daughter Isabel formed a Mission Circle, it being the fifth Circle then organized. Miss Isabel soon after left us and went as a missionary to India, where at the end of a year she passed away with that dread disease, cholera.

Our first President was Miss E. C. Wells, who afterwards became our faithful Secretary for twenty-three years. The first Secretary was Miss Phoebe Austin and her sister, Mrs. N. Challen, was Treasurer. Mrs. Alex. Turnbull was our next President. At our meeting of May 1884 we decided to become a Society for Missions and also work with the Ladies' Aid. The names of some others who filled offices are as follows, while perhaps not in their exact order: Mrs. N. Challen, Mrs. E. E. Collins, Mrs. James Brown, Mrs. Dr. Murdoch, Mrs. Terhune, Mrs. J. Sherk, Mrs. (Rev.) D. Dack, Mrs. C. Clowes, Miss Mary Davis, Mrs. D. B. Wallace, Mrs. Alex. Wallace, Mrs. R. E. Gunton, Mrs. H. H. Schuyler, Mrs. Wentworth, wife of our present pastor. Mrs. R. E. Gunton was Secretary for twenty-one years.

Appropriations were Grande Ligne, Leper Mission, Indian work in the Northwest under Rev. Mr. Sharpe, and the regular Home and Foreign Mission

work. To the Indian field we sent bales of clothing, books, papers, cards, and also had a collection once a year from the church for the work. We also for some time sent gifts and money to the Muskoka Sanitarium. Two or three ladies were appointed as a visiting committee and one month there were reported forty-seven visits.

Our fee was 10c per month, and we also had mission boxes made of Teakwood brought from India by Rev. John McLaurin. Our programs consisted of studies of the work on different fields, readings, solos, and prayer. One dear old Sister, Miss Mary Kinney, who had very little money, but gave of her presence and prayers, which were worth a great deal.

Of course we had discouragements, but more encouragements; and interest was never lost in the great work of giving the Gospel to those who were not so favoured as ourselves. We have made more than thirty life members of the Mission Circle.

The Circle is busy at present with the White Cross Work, sending necessary articles for use in India.

Thus the work of Missions goes on in our midst; we have been blest in the past and we pray for more members and a greater interest in the work. May we always remember the Master's command "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature."

MRS. ROBERT E. GUNTON

(Annie P. Austin)

The Young People's Mission Circle



February 23rd, 1892, is a historical date in connection with the present Young People's Mission Circle, because it was then that the society was organized, known as the Young Ladies' Mission Circle, and continuing as such until some time in 1917, when the present name was adopted.

Mrs. D. Dack, the Pastor's wife, was responsible for the organization, and the following officers were elected: Honourary President—Mrs. D. Dack (Deceased); President—Miss Ethel Wallace (Deceased); Vice-President—Miss Lizzie Smith (Deceased); Secretary—Miss Emma Burr (now Mrs. Wm. Skinner); Treasurer—Miss Ida Terhune (now Mrs. Wm. Sutton); Solicitors—Miss Bertha Sherk (now Mrs. Shuttleworth, Mt. Elgin), Miss Lucy Gunton (now Mrs. Harrop, Hagersville). A list of those who attended the organization is not given, but besides the above there appear in the minutes the names of Miss Mabel Wallace (now Mrs. John Lever, Windsor), and Miss Annie Austin (now Mrs. R. E. Gunton).

It is recorded that twelve members were present at the first regular meeting held on March 23rd, and three other names appear, Miss Gertie Rattenbury (now Mrs. Hinsley, Norwich), Mrs. Jas. Starling (Tenawanda, N.Y.) and Miss Edith McBride (now Mrs. A. E. Culver).

At the first meeting, the Secretary was instructed to write for information about the support of a student at Feller Institute in Grande Ligne, Quebec. Another phase of the work was to look into the matter of forming a Mission Band, which, the minutes show, was organized that June, the Circle appointing from their own members Miss G. Rattenbury to act as President of the Mission Band.

There was no change in the Presidency for a six-year period, when Miss Ethel Wallace, was succeeded by Miss Edith McBride, who served four years. Miss Jessie Carey (now Mrs. Wm. Wallace, Hamilton) was an early President and for a number of years was an efficient Secretary-Treasurer.

Others who joined in the early years, who were active workers and held

offices, were Miss T. Wells (deceased), Miss Martha Peachey (now of Toronto), and the Misses Eva, Lola and Cora Culver (now Mrs. H. H. Schuyler and Mrs. Samuel Schuyler of Simcoe, and Mrs. Fred Cattel of Mimico, respectively).

One of the members, in the person of Miss Ida Ryerse (later Mrs. Wall, Hollywood, Cal.) was called in 1908 to serve in the Foreign Mission Field at India. Miss Ryerse had always been an active worker in the Circle, being president for one term, and although she was not absent for a longer period than four years, it meant much to the members that one of them was in mission service. Upon returning, due to ill health, Miss Ryerse again took up the Circle work.

The records for a period from 1903 to the end of 1910 are not at hand, but at the beginning of 1911 we find that Mrs. H. H. Schuyler was President and continued in office for three years, being followed by Mrs. E. Mark and Miss Mattie Baldwin (now Mrs. Chester Fleming), who each served for a one-year term.

In 1916 and 1917 Miss Annie Miller was President and some time during this term we notice that the Circle name was gradually changed to Young People's Mission Circle, although no definite reference was made to it in the minutes.

Miss Elizabeth Church (now Mrs. H. Y. Culver) then took over the Presidency, and in 1920 a paragraph appears in the minutes stating that by a unanimous vote the Circle would meet with the B.Y.P.U. on their monthly missionary night, the apparent reason for this move being that it was very difficult to find a regular meeting night during the month.

With the meetings held in connection with the B.Y.P.U. the real identity of the Circle was gradually being lost. Early in 1934 the members reorganized as the Young People's Mission Circle. It was decided that the meetings should be held monthly and separately from the B.Y.P.U. Mrs. Thos. Toombs was elected President, and held this office for two years.

During the past year we have been learning a great deal and receiving much inspiration from our missionaries, Rev. and Mrs. R. E. Smith from India, and Mr. and Mrs. Aubrey Hunt from Africa, who are on furlough and spending much of their time in the home town. The Circle has just completed thirty quilts and scarves and sold them on the understanding that the buyers were making a gift to the

Indian Mission Field, the proceeds from the sale increasing the Circle treasury. A display of these articles at the Centennial services is being planned.

The present officers are: President—Mrs. Stanley Whiting; Vice-President—Mr. Frank Anthony; Secretary-Treasurer—Miss Barbara Culver.

BARBARA A. CULVER

Mission Band



The Mission Band was commenced nearly forty-four years ago, being first organized in May, 1892, in connection with the Young Ladies' Mission Circle.

The first President, Miss Gertie Rattenbury (now Mrs. Hinsley, Norwich), and Miss Annie Austin (now Mrs. R. E. Gunton), Vice-President, were appointed from the membership of the Young Ladies' Mission Circle. Miss Austin and Mrs. Dack (the minister's wife) were appointed to see the Superintendent of the Sunday School about closing the School early on the second Sunday of each month for the Band meeting.

Early in 1893 Miss Rattenbury resigned and Miss Austin took her place for one year, being succeeded by Miss Eva Culver (now Mrs. H. H. Schuyler). Later Mrs. Dack was appointed leader with Miss Cora Culver (now Mrs. Fred Cattel, Mimico) the Secretary-Treasurer. Miss J. Carey and Miss M. Paulin

(now Mrs. J. Rutherford) also were leaders for short periods.

By a new constitution the officers of the Mission Band are now appointed by the Women's Mission Circle. Mrs. H. R. Crabb was leader for a three-year period, while at the same time she had charge of the Junior Union, which double task was a very difficult work. Mrs. R. E. Gunton and Mrs. William Burgess each had charge for long terms, the latter for almost a ten-year period. Then Miss Margaret Clark followed for about two years, and at the present time Mrs. George Woodman, assisted by Miss Evelyn Rutherford and Mrs. H. L. Dawes, with Miss Barbara Culver as Secretary-Treasurer, is leading a Band with a membership of thirty-five children. For many years the meetings have been held on Monday evenings, commencing at seven o'clock.

BARBARA A. CULVER

The Ladies' Aid



In the old minutes of the church, there is no record as to the time when the women were called "Ladies' Aid", but from the beginning it is quite evident that they were organized into a society to raise money for Church purposes. Sometimes this was to decorate the Church, carpet the aisles, help pay for the organ, or even help out on the Pastor's salary.

All through the years there have been wonderful women, who were not afraid of work, and who, like the

women of Nehemiah's time, did everything in their power to help. Each Fall a big tea-meeting was held, at which they sometimes raised over two hundred dollars. They held socials, and also met every two weeks to make quilts and articles for sale or for the needy. Fifty years ago this August, our Pastor, Rev. P. C. Parker, returned from England with his bride. At the reception, a quilt made of blue and white cashmere, was given them as a wedding present. It was made in blocks, each member paying to have

his or her name worked on it. From this quilt was realized a goodly sum, which was divided between the Church and missions.

In later years the women have kept up their reputation for work. They have raised a great deal of money.

They paid \$2000 for the organ in the Church that was burned in 1913, paid \$1500 on the new Sunday School Hall, and \$5000 for our present organ. Since then we have paid each year, several hundred dollars on the debt.

E. M. STEINHOFF

The Tillicum Club



The Tillicum Club was organized on March 11th, 1914, to assist the senior ladies in raising money for a new church.

The name Tillicum was not chosen until 1915; it is the Indian word for Friendship.

The original members at the first meeting, held at Mrs. Elgin Johnson's home were: Mesdames Harvey Johnson, W. B. Tomlinson, Gordon Butler, T. V. Smith and H. C. Newcombe, and the Misses Tama Piette, Theresa Hocking, Mary Peachey, Gladys Misner, Lulu Leach, and Ruth, Maud and Beulah Edmondson, and Ethel Pettit, who was elected President, to which office she has each year been returned.

It was decided to have a yearly membership fee of 25 cents and to meet two evenings a month at the homes of the various members, when a ten cent supper should be given, and work done in preparation for our annual bazaar.

The first contribution was in June, 1914, when 8 dozen knives were given to the dining hall of the church. Later over \$200.00 was contributed towards re-roofing the parsonage, and \$10.00 for verandah repairs.

When the new church was built, the Club supplied the \$900.00 for the elec-

trical fixtures, as well as each year contributing liberally toward the current and building accounts of the church.

In war-time assistance was often given to the I.O.D.E., such as \$40. to the hospital ship, and so on.

In 1927, \$165.00 was raised at a St. Patrick's Tea, with which office furniture was bought for the Norfolk Hospital.

The Club was privileged in having three highly esteemed honorary members in Mesdames Helena Palmerton, Mary Siple and Lucy Miller, who have all gone on, but will ever be remembered for their faithful and generous help.

A beautiful luncheon set was made and donated to the Club by Mrs. John Piette, which sold for \$15.00, and \$10.75 was received for a tatted set made by Mrs. Mary Siple. These are the highest prices received for any one piece of work.

Mrs. Robert Gunton will always be remembered by the Club as the most liberal customer at their bazaars.

And still the work continues for the last nine thousand of remaining debt.

MISS ETHEL PETTIT

Men's Brotherhood



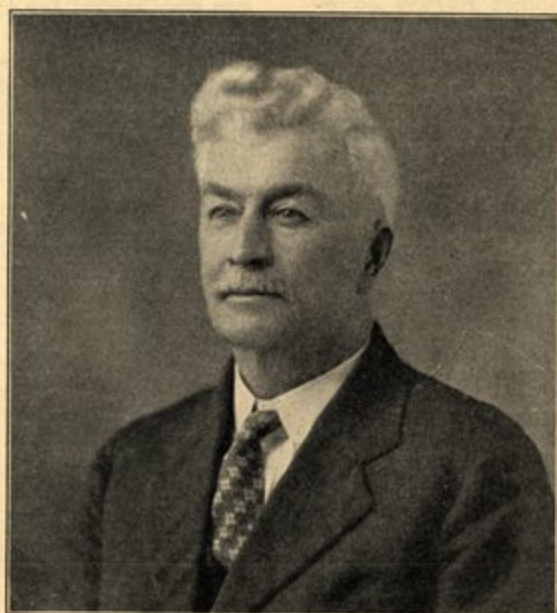
The men have always taken a leading part as business managers and advisors, but recently an organization has been formed known as the Baptist Brotherhood, with the following officers: President, Harry C. Judd; Vice-Presidents, H. R. Crabb and Archie E.

Culver; Secretary, Lloyd A. Youmans. The proposed activities are to deepen the interests of our men in spiritual, educational and social work of the church.

LLOYD A. YOUMANS,
Secretary.

Our Church of nearly 500 members, with its active organizations, its well-equipped plant, its evangelistic, moral and social records of the past, should appeal to the visionary ambitions of its junior members today. An opportunity presents itself. The duty is ours. Let us continue to be a credit to those who have planned and paid and prayed.

A. E. CULVER



Archie E. Culver, Historian, baptized into the membership of this Church fifty-two years ago. Mr. Culver is in his thirty-second year as Clerk of the Norfolk Association of Baptist Churches.

