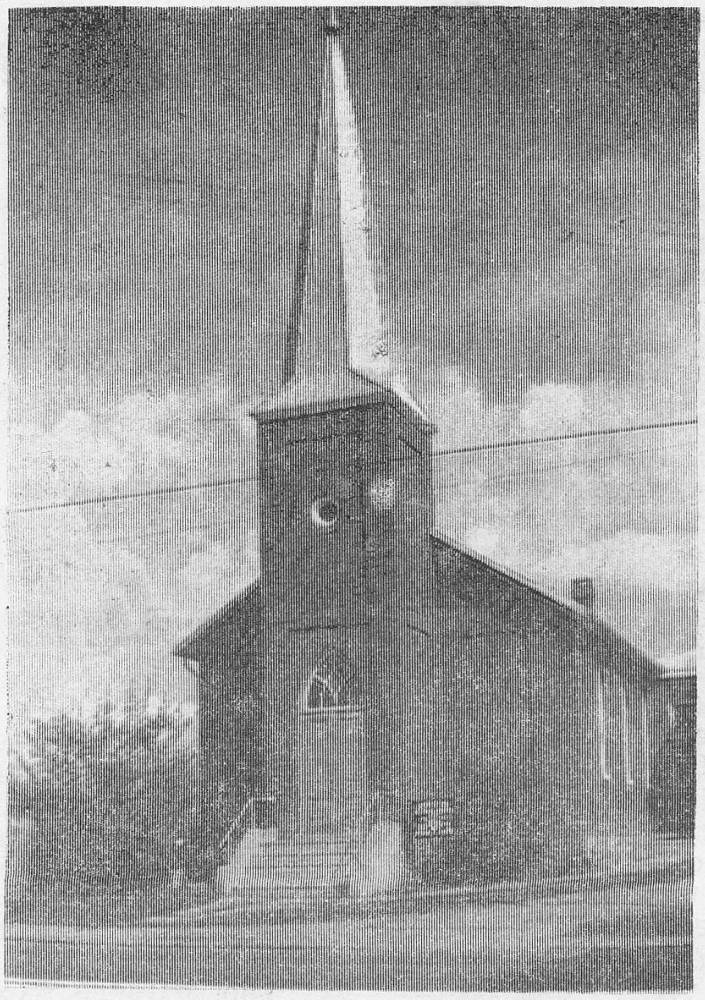
Centennial Celebrations
1865 - 1965
Morrish United Church
Sunday, August 29 - 1965



11:15 a.m. — REV. E. K. NORMAN of Bridgenorth

4:00 p.m. — REV. R. T. SWAN, B.A., B.D., of Brantford

PREFACE

The committee appointed to write the history of Morrish Church offers their thanks to all those persons who have assisted in giving information and items of the past.

We regret that much information pertaining to the history of this Church was not forthcoming, therefore many names and accomplishments were not mentioned.

Even with this limited amount of material we have cause to think of the courage, cooperation and determination that our forefathers displayed in erecting this building that we now call "our church", and this presents to us a challenge to continue to go forward with the same determination.

THE DISTRICT: 1834 - 1865

Much of the early history of this community was centered around William Samuel Marsh, born one hundred and sixty-eight years ago in a log cabin at Port Britain. Two brothers of the family of eight fell heir to nine hundred acres in this district, and in 1834 William Samuel Marsh built the brick home known as Marsh's Tavern, where the Township Council met from 1835 to 1854.

The land, being heavily wooded, gave Mr. Marsh the idea of starting a lumber business, which led to house and ship building. He built the home of Mr. L. Bevan, Mr. H. Moore, and Mr. H. J. Anderson. He employed more people than anyone else in Hope Township.

We scarcely can imagine what the former road conditions were like. Roseberry Hill was a hazardous stretch of road where stage coach passengers were asked to walk up the hill. At the present time a glance of the hills on either side of the road can verify the former steepness of this hill. The people of these times were required to pay toll at certain places along the roads. At Morrish there were two toll gates, one a short distance west of the church on the south side and the other on the road running south. Later these were done away with, also one erected on the south side of the road opposite the church.

In spite of the hazardous roads, lack of luxuries and hard, long working hours, the population increased rapidly, many people coming to this district from England as well as a number of United Empire Loyalists.

In 1850 Mr. Wm. Hunt (Farini) was an outstanding character in this community, building a fish hatchery, saw-mill, grist mill and butter factory on the Marvin Creek.

Ten taverns flourished in 1860 until the temperance movement became strong enough to force the council to inflict costly licenses on tavern owners.

THE CHURCH — 1865 - 1900

Devout men of the Wesleyan Methodist Church must have seen the need for a church in this district, so in the year 1865 Mr. John Morrish and wife Mary donated a tract of land to be used for this purpose.

The trustees named on the deed are: John Agar, Charles Harris, Henry Pethick, Aaron Choate, Luke Jacobs and Thomas Grant.

After careful planning the actual work began. This required the combined efforts of stone masons, carpenters and dozens of willing helpers. There

must have been a feeling of satisfaction and pleasure when these people saw their untiring efforts had accomplished the erection of their beautiful little church named "Morrish." The church, we are led to believe, was a frame structure; years later it was bricked and a steeple added. There is not much information available from the time of the opening until 1900, but the church flourished under leadership of the families of men and women known as Lewis, Grandy, Carr, Uglow, Henderson, Osborne, Beebe, Purcell, Hamilton, Moore, Symons, McConnell, Beckett, Cornish.

Some activities of the church have been found on posters:
1882 — Morrish Church — York Road — anniversary and strawberry festival. Sunday, July 9, 1882. Sermons preached at 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. by Rev. Arthur Browing, in the afternoon by Rev. J. C. Seymour. On Monday evening following, strawberries served 4 - 7, after which addresses by Rev. D. McCamus, W. Pattyson; a good choir in attendance. Admission 25c.; children under 15, 15c.
1883 — A grand honey festival at Morrish. Annual anniversary of Morrish Sunday School will be held on Sunday and Monday, October 21 and 22. Sermons preached at 2:30 and 6:30 by Rev. R. T. Courtice, and J. McMullen. Collections in behalf of school. Honey festival and tea will be served Monday 22, commencing at 5 o'clock after which a program will be rendered consisting of music, solos, recitations, etc. Speeches by Rev. Courtice, Taylor, Seymour, Thompson and McMullen. Admission 25c, children 10c. Come one, come all.

Charlecote Post Office was situated west of Morrish Church. Postmaster in 1884 - 1886 was Thomas Purcell; 1887-1912, W. A. Beebe.

The Morrish Sunday School in 1909 presented to their teacher, Mrs. M. G. Welch, a gift and address signed by Lillie Ham, Lottie Uglow, Minnie Ham, Lizzie Duke, Dawson Beebe, Ethel Clark, Aleda Marvin, Nellie Jackson, Florence Wilkinson, Herbert Rawlingson.

The Morrish Women's Institute was organized on June 2, 1909: President, Mrs. M. G. Welch; Vice-president, Mrs. W. A. Beebe; Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. L. B. Symons.

The Adult Bible Class of 1914 helped the church trustees move "The Star of Hope" temperance building from the east side of the church property to join the church for the Sunday School Hall, at cost of three hundred dollars.

A Missionary Society was in existence for some time. Records show the Morrish Missionary Society was very active from 1925-30 with presidents Mrs. B. S. Dickinson and Mrs. M. J. Osborne.

On January 4, 1937, Rev. B. F. Green organized the Women's Association with seventeen members: President, Mrs. Wm. McHolm; Vice-president, Mrs. David Wilson; Secretary, Mrs. I. McConnell; Treasurer, Mrs. M. J. Osborne; Pianist, Mrs. W. Marvin.

The Dramatic Club organized in 1930 had many enjoyable evenings with their plays such as "The Kentucky Bell", the proceeds assisting the Sunday School.

Church weddings included — C. A. Kelly - Elizabeth Lord "were given White Bible"; Howard Payne - Pauline Peters; Gordon Howarth - Marion Cornish; Calvin Harness - Ann Remsik; Lorence Shannon -

Helen Byers; Stanley Clarke - Loreen Young; Arthur Robinson - Joan Young.

CRADLE ROLL

MORRISH SUNDAY SCHOOL
In 1911 - 1915, W. A. Beebe was superintendent; Mary Uglow teacher. Names included: Edna Thickson, Jessie McHolm, Winnifred Hamilton, William Smith, Vilda Osborne, Wesley Clark, Forest Inch, Justin Hall, Verna Tufford, Elsie McHolm, William Grant, George Anderson, George Lewis, Helen Lewis, Hazel McHolm, Clara Dawley, Christopher Anderson, Howard Sedman, Beverley Henderson, Carl Moore.

1965 CHURCH OFFICERS

1965 Officers of the Church: Session chairman, Rev. J. E. Cargo; Clerk of Session, Mrs. H. Osborne. Members of Session: Mrs. M. Brimacombe, Fred McConnell, Allen Peters, Mrs. M. Osborne, Mrs. D. Beebe. Stewards: H. Beckett, Mrs. H. Beckett, M. Henderson, D. Lord, F. McConnell, A. Peters. Trustees: D. Beebe, L. Marvin, E. McConnell, H. Osborne, A. Peters.

Through the generosity of the local people and the late Mrs. Ada Johnston, the church building was renovated for this centennial year.

Morrish Church still stands as a witness to her Lord.

1965 Sunday School Officers: Superintendent, Mrs. Haines; Secretary-treasurer, Mrs. H. Osborne. Teachers: Gayle Hodgson, Jane Harness, Ruth Brimacombe, Susan Harness, Mrs. M. Brimacombe, Mrs. M. Henderson, Mrs. N. McHolm.
President U.C.W., Mrs. N. McHolm.

Organists 1900 - 1965 — Mrs. W. A. Beebe, Mrs. M. Welch, Miss Bertha Hamilton, Miss Eliza Uglow, Miss Mary Irwin, Mrs. Wm. Hawthorne, Mrs. Wm. Marvin, Mrs. N. McHolm.

Let us not forget the many young men of the Morrish community who joined the military services. Thomas Mouser, a local boy, never returned.

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