

Roll of Ministers

Rev. C. E. Price.....	1853-1877
Rev. Ben Backus.....	1881-1884
Rev. James Groh.....	1884-1886
Rev. Wm. Charlesworth.....	1886-1888
Rev. Wesley Backus.....	1888-1889
Rev. I.H. Groh.....	1889-1895
Rev. C. H. Elliott.....	1895-1901
Rev. J. W. Newbury.....	1901-1903
Rev. Sanderson.....	1903-1908
Mr. Adams.....	1908-1910
Mr. Harry Williams.....	1910-1913
Rev. J. Plant.....	1913-1917
Rev. J. W. Newbury.....	1917-1920
Rev. Creighton.....	1920-1921
Rev. Harvey Forster.....	1921-1923
Rev. Alfred Yeoman.....	1923-1927
Rev. S. A. Moote.....	1927-1930
Rev. J. W. Bean.....	1930-1935
Rev. M. M. Culp.....	1935-1941
Rev. C. C. MacDonald.....	1941-1945
Rev. MacCrimmon.....	1945-1946
Rev. Killam.....	1946-1948
Mr. Wm. Slim.....	1948-1952
Rev. L. C. McRoberts.....	1952-1956
Mr. D. Sinclair.....	1956-1956
Rev. Frank Legge.....	1956-1958
Rev. Carl E. Riggs.....	1958-1964

*Rev. R. Dickerson*  
*Rev. P. Packer*  
*Rev. H. Kemping 1964-70* \* \* \* \* \* *1964-1966* \*  
 \* \* \* \* \* *1966-69* \*  
 CONSECRATION and DISCIPLESHIP.  
*Rev. Robinson 1971*

Lord, in the strength of grace,  
 With a glad heart and free,  
 Myself, my residue of days,  
 I consecrate to Thee.

Thy ransomed servant, I  
 Restore to Thee Thy own;  
 And, from this moment, live or die  
 To serve my God alone.

Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

HISTORY

We have to go back to over 100 years ago, to the Wesleyan Methodists who built this church or chapel, as it was called then.

The United Brethern Church originated in the United States. It was not a branch or division from some other church, but it was a movement resulting from similiar beliefs and ideas of spiritual men of that time who were mostly German or of German descent.

The Rev. C. E. Price was one of the men sent from the United States to Niagara during the years 1853-1855, he formed a United Brethern Class at Gonder's Chapel in 1855, (which later became Black Creek.) This was the beginning of the Niagara Mission. In 1858 several classes were organized: Youngs River and Stevensville. The very first quarterly Conference was held in Wainfleet in 1857. In 1861 there were 700 members, 33 classes, 50 preaching places. Most of the services in barns, houses and schools. The United Brethern people were humble and Zealous. The United Brethern Historian, John Lawrence, says in the church there were no choirs, no organs, etc. Men and Women sat apart from one another and up until that time the minister had not fallen into the habit of reading sermons. The Wesleyan Methodists built this church or chapel in 1863. The first record of a quarterly meeting was in 1864 at Sherks Crossing. It may have been held in this church or chapel.

The next time Sherks Crossing was mentioned was in 1865. The people were asked to pay \$37.50 towards the minister's salary but there is no record of this having been paid. In 1866 the quarterly conference was to have been held in Stevensville but was postponed on account of the scare due to the Fenion Raid of July 7th. 1866.

The quarterly Conference was held in Sherks Crossing in September 1866. There were five members taken into the fellowship of the Church: 1859, 1860, 1863 - namely, Peter and Mary Learn, Orland Learn's Uncle and Aunt, George and Eliz Sherk and Nathaniel Brewster, but apparently the class was still not organized, 1870. Sherks Crossing paid \$1.50 towards minister's salary-later in that year members met at Sherks Crossing with Youngs; McKenneys; Garrison Road and Black Creek.- It was decided at this meeting that a regular class be organized and were assessed \$90.00 towards minister's salary which was \$550.00. The minister was Rev. D. E. Sherk. Sherks Crossing raised their amount, but some of the others fell down for only \$450.00 was raised with eight classes contributing: Garrison Road; Sherks Crossing; Black Creek; Youngs; Sodon Road; Stevensville; McKenneys and Clarks Corners. We are coming now to some names that may sound familiar. Peter Learn, Wesley Stephens, Benj. Troup, James A. Learn, Peter Sherk, Andrew Sherk, Henry Zaviz, Adam Sherk, Joseph Sherk and Aaron Sherk. In 1873 Sherks Crossing became "Sherkston" as far as the records go.

The Sherkston class had no church entirely of its own as they were only part owners with the Wesleyan Methodists and the two services conflicted a bit. One started at 9 A.M. Sunday so would have to rush a wee bit as the second service started at 10.30 A.M. Sunday. Also as Mr. Hugh Sherk owned the land on which the church was built and the secretary Levi Sherk says Mr. Sherk was not minded to deed the land to another denomination. In 1881 the Methodists offered to sell and the United Brethren paid \$150.00 and the Methodists soon after acquired Kennedys Hall. Several United Brethren classes dropped out but

Sherkston continued to prosper and increased in membership. The Niagara Mission now consisted of Sherkston; Garrison Road; Stevensville and Black Creek. 1887-1888 more familiar names appear Charles Sherk, Benj. Sherk and Emmanuel Zavitz.

In 1889 there was a division due to secret societies. One body was called "Liberals" and the other "Radicals" however they held services together for a number of years. The Liberals in the A.M. and the Radicals in the P.M. The next Sunday this was reversed. The Liberals had a Y. P. S. on Tuesday evenings and the Radicals had a Prayer Meeting on Thursday night. In 1896 the Radicals were forced out and held their meetings in Sider's Mennonite Church and later that year they decided to build a Church building of their own. The new church was opened in April 1897. (Grace United Brethren Church)

The Liberals owning the church building alone now carried on for a time. In 1906 the Liberal group joined up with the Congregationalists.

In 1921 Bethel, Sherkston and Stevensville joined together as a Pastoral Charge.

In June of 1925, this church united with the Methodists and Presbyterians and is now a part of the United Church of Canada. Kennedys Hall people joined at this same time.

It looks like Rev. Wesley Backus was here during the "division". We had two Backus brothers and one stayed with the Radicals Rev. Wesley Backus and one with the Liberals Rev. George Backus and Ben Backus.

There was a Mr. Elliott also Rev. Mundy and Rev. Newbury was here before he was married and Rev. I. H. Groh. Mr. Elliott lived at Sherkston where Arthur Storm live, but Rev. Mundy and Rev. J. W. Newbury lived in a "parsonage" in Stevensville. Our

Liberal Branch of the United Brethern Church had a church somewhere near where Houses Mill is now located. Our Manse here at Sherkston was built around 1906 when Rev. M. J. Sanderson was here. The contractor was Michael Sherk and some of the people who assisted were Rev. Sanderson, Benj. Sherk, David S. Sherk, Charles Sherk, Dr. N. Brewster, Jacob Zavitz, Emmanuel Zavitz and others.

It was around this time that the Ladies Aid was formed and we believe that Mrs. Davis S. Sherk was the first President. Mr. D. I. Robbins, who married Charles Sherk's daughter did some preaching around 1900.

Around 1907-1907 the "cupola" or steeple was added to the church building while Rev. M. J. Sanderson was here.

On Tuesday evening January 17th., 1928 a group of women, interested in Missionary work, met at the Sherkston United Church, with Mrs. S. A. Mobe in the chair, and Marjory Chambers as secretary. After the reading of the scripture and prayer, Mrs. Hardy Wilhelm, sang an appropriate hymn which was much enjoyed.

Miss Box, president of the Niagara Presbyterial, in her own delightful and informal way, explained in detail, the condition and work of the Woman's Missionary Society Auxiliary and organized the Sherkston Auxiliary. It was decided the W. M. S. would meet on the third Thursday of each month. It was also decided the W. M. S. would use the monthly envelopes.

The meeting then adjourned to the parsonage for lunch. The following officers were elected. President: Mrs. S. A. Mobe

Vice: Mrs. O. L. Sherk

Secretary: Mrs. M. C. Damude

Treasurer: Mrs. Charles Chambers

#### Christian Stewardship

Secretary: Mrs. M. M. Sherk  
Supply Secretary: Mrs. H. Wilhelm  
Associate Helpers  
Secretary: Mrs. O. L. Sherk.

In 1952 Stevensville left this charge and the charge now is a two point charge with Sherkston and Bethel being the preaching points.

In 1952 work was begun on the church to improve its facilities. A basement was dug and a new foundation poured and the church moved back from the road and put on the present foundation. At the same time the church was enlarged but was not fully completed until the spring of 1959 when the Chancel, Minister's Study and Choir room were completed. The Church was re-dedicated on Sunday May 3rd, 1959. The service was conducted by Rev. C. R. Riggs, Minister assisted by Rev. W. H. Martin, M.A., B.D. representing the Niagara Presbytery United Church of Canada and Rev. R. M. Moriarty. The church choir was under the direction of Mr. Harold Edge with Mrs. Howard Bearss, Organist.

In 1962 the Ladies Aid or W. A. and the W. M. S. became the United Church Women with Mrs. Howard Bearss as its first president.

In 1963 on Sunday May 5th. the 100th Anniversary will be observed. Rev. Riggs will conduct both the morning and evening services. The guest speaker in the A.M. will be Rev. A. E. Kewley, B.A., B.D., Th.D. of Brant Ave. United Church, Brantford, Ont. Mr. Kewley is president of the Hamilton Conference of the United Church of Canada. The guest speaker in the P.M. will be Rev. Joseph Blakey, B.A., B.D. of the Port Robinson United Church.

On Tuesday evening of the same week

SOME HISTORICAL FACTS

a Community Service will be held with the Ministers and members of the Grace United Brethern in Christ; The Sherkston Community Church; and the Brethern In Christ Church taking part.

The sermon was preached by Rev. Roy Sider, minister of the Brethern in Christ Church. Scripture was read by Mr. Harvey Strömme, minister of the Sherkston Community Church. Prayer was offered by Rev. Archie Kent, minister of Grace United Brethern in Christ church. The choir of Grace church under the direction of Mr. Al Day led in the service of praise. The service was conducted by the minister, Rev. C. R. Riggs.

On Friday evening May 10th. a congregational dinner was served to a capacity crowd and following the dinner a pageant intitled "We Build the Church" was presented by the children of the church under the direction of Rev. Riggs with Mrs. Howard Bearss at the organ.

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OUR SINCERE THANKS TO THE ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE AND TO ALL OTHERS WHO IN ANY WAY HELPED TO MAKE THESE SPECIAL SERVICE A BIG SUCCESS:

ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

*Members of the Session 1963.*

- Rev. C. R. Riggs
- Mr. Archie Sage
- Mr. Burt Fraser
- Mr. Albert Mellor
- Mr. Donald Elliott
- Mr. Allan Wilhelm
- Mr. Raymond Kromkamp
- Mr. Stanley Patterson
- Mr. Hardy Wilhelm
- Mr. Harold Shisler
- Mrs. Harold Shisler
- Mrs. A. R. Benner
- Mrs. Howard Bearss
- Mrs. Gordon McCombs

- 1853- First minister sent to Niagara from the United States.
- 1855- Niagara Mission Formed.
- 1864- First quarterly meeting held.
- 1873- Sherks Crossing became what is known today as SHERKSTON.
- 1881- Methodists sole their half of Church to the United Brethern.
- 1889- Division due to Secret Societies.
- 1896- Radicals were locked out of Church.
- 1897- Grace United Brethern Church opened.
- 1906- Liberal Branch of United Brethern Church joined with the Methodists. people of Kennedys Hall also joined at the same time.
- 1907- "Copula" or steeple was built
- 1907- Ladies Aid was formed around this time.
- 1921- Bethel joined with Sherkston and Stevensville charge.
- 1925- United with the Methodists and Presbyterians to form the United Church of Canada.
- 1952- Stevensville left the charge. The Church Basement was built.
- 1959- Church remodeled and re-dedicated
- 1962- W.A. and W.M.S. become U.C.W.
- 1963- 100th. Anniversary Observed.

*1974 - Sept - Church fire*

1918 - New Electric Organ purchased  
\* \* \* \* \*

Some Sunday School Superintendent down  
through the years:

- Mr. Benj. Sherk Peter Learn
- Mr. Glen Sherk Hardy Zavitz
- Mr. Perry Sherk Stanley Edwards
- Mr. Emmanuel Zavitz
- Mr. A. R. Benner *Sandra McCombs*
- Mr. Charles Chambers *Conrad Chambers*
- Mrs. Howard Bearss (Present)
- Mr. Hardy Wilhelm Temperance Supt.

\* \* \* \* \*  
Some Ladies Aid; W. A. : U. C. W.  
Leaders down through the years:

- Mrs. David S. Sherk
- Mrs. M. C. Damude
- Mrs. Archie Page
- Mrs. Vince Zimmerman
- Mrs. Howard Bearss
- Mrs. Garfield Howes (Ist. Vice)
- Mrs. A. R. Benner (Missionary Secty.)

\* \* \* \* \*  
Some Organists down through the years

- Mrs. J. G. Morningstar
- Miss Claudia Zavitz
- Mrs. James Baker
- Mrs. Charles Chambers
- Mrs. Clifford Pearson
- Mrs. Del Martin (Rev.)
- Miss Margaret Benner
- Mrs. Howard Bearss (Present)
- Mr. Harold Edge
- Miss Sandra McCombs (Assistant)

\* *Sylvia Chambers* \* *Sandra Howes* \*  
*Conrad Chambers* \* *Delia Howes* \*  
Some Explorer Leaders down through the  
years: Mrs. Harold Edge  
Mrs. Albert Mellor  
Mrs. Perry Bowins

\* \* \* \* \*

Some C. G. I. T. Leaders down through  
the years:

- Mrs. r.M. Sherk
- Mrs. Arthur Learn
- Miss Mildred Learn
- Mrs. C. R. Riggs (Present)
- Mrs. Harold Shisler (Present)

\* \* \* \* \*  
Some Scout Leaders down through the  
years:

- James Dawson
- John A. Benner
- Harold Shisler
- Allan Wilhelm (Present)
- Rev. C. R. Riggs Assistant
- Chester Thomas Assistant

\* \* \* \* \*

Some Cub Leaders down through the years

- Stanley Edwards
- Joseph Wilhelm
- Chester Thomas

- Mrs. Chester Thomas (Present)
- Mrs. Burt Fraser (Present)

\* \* \* \* \*

Some Mission Band or Messenger Leaders  
down through the years:

- Mrs. Allan Wilhelm
- Mrs. Garfield Howes (Present)
- Mrs. R. Kromkamp (Present)
- Mrs. S. A. Moote
- Mrs. Perry Sherk
- Miss Edna Bearss

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The Sunday School records show that in  
1918, on June 2nd. Russell Robbins was  
presented with a wrist watch by Emmanuel  
Zavitz Secretary of the Sunday School.

\* \* \* \* \*

Some Sunday School Teachers down through the years:

Mrs. H. E. Wilhelm	Claudus Sherk
Glen Sherk	Mrs. J. P. Zavitz
Erla Chambers	Mrs. Johnny Jensen
Raymond Damude	Bertha Barnhart
Mina Barnhart	Grace Barnhart
Mrs. E. M. Zavitz	Mr. Benj. Sherk
Mr. E. M. Zavitz	Miss Edna Bearss
Miss Frances Bearss	Miss Ruth Bearss
Mrs. P. M. Sherk	Mrs. James Baker
Mrs. C. Chambers	Mrs. M. C. Damude
Marjorie Chambers	

Teaching Staff 1963

Margaret Benner (Treasurer and Librarian)

Mrs. H. Bearss	Miss Jane Benner
Mrs. A. Mellor	Mrs. A. Wilhelm
Mrs. A. Page	Miss H. Hoyle
Mrs. Percy Bowins	Mr. Joseph Wilhelm
Mrs. Ken Teal	Mrs. Harold Shisler

Assistant Teachers 1963

Mr. Donald Frank	Miss Edna Wilhelm
Miss Brenda Wilhelm	Mrs. C. R. Riggs
Mr. Gordon McCombs	Mrs. Gordon McCombs
Mrs. Chester Thomas	Mrs. Garfield Howes
Mr. Garfield Howes	

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Y.P.S.C.E. "MOTTO"

"For the Glory of God and the Salvation of Men."

Some Topics taken by Y.P.S. of C. E.

"How every Christian can be a Missionary"  
"The Christian and the Ballot"  
"Getting out of the Ruts and keeping out"  
"A Joyous Life"  
"Gems from my Reading"  
"Make Bold Beginnings"  
"How to make this a Happier World"

Y.P.S. of C. E.

In 1917 a debate was held  
Topic: "Resolved that Church Union would be a benefit to the Christian Church"

Debating Team

Affirmative  
Miss A. L. Hemstreet  
Miss Currey

Negative  
Miss Orpha Learn

Mrs. A. N. Sherk, Erie Sherk and Fletcher Sherk acted as judges.  
The Affirmative side won.

1919: Social evening for Harold Barnhart having returned from overseas.  
Social evening for Russell Robbins having returned from overseas  
Rev. J. A. Steed of Montreal was present

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TRUSTEES 1963

Albert Mellor	Howard Bearss
Chester Thomas	A. O. Page
Ferry M. Sherk	

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BOARD OF STAFF 1963

Harold Shisler	Archie Page
Osmond Chambers	Lee Russell
Gordon McCombs	Hank Termeaton
Fraser Brennan	Mrs. Gordon McCombs
Vincent Zimmerman	Mrs. Harold Shisler

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In preparing this Booklet it may be possible that some names may have been overlooked. As you read this booklet if you have any information that would help make it more complete please give it to the minister. Omissions, errors or any corrections please forgive.

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1918 - New Electric Organ purchased

\* \* \* \* \*  
Some Sunday School Superintendent down through the years:

- Mr. Benj. Sherk            Peter Learn
- Mr. Glen Sherk            Hardy Zavitz
- Mr. Perry Sherk           Stanley Edwards
- Mr. Emmanuel Zavitz
- Mr. A. R. Benner
- Mr. Charles Chambers *Conrad Chambers*
- Mrs. Howard Bearss (Present)
- Mr. Hardy Wilhelm    Temperance Supt.

\* \* \* \* \*  
Some Ladies Aid; W. A. : U. C. W.  
Leaders down through the years:

- Mrs. David S. Sherk
- Mrs. M. C. Damude
- Mrs. Archie Lage
- Mrs. Vince Zimmerman
- Mrs. Howard Bearss
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- Miss Margaret Benner
- Mrs. Howard Bearss (Present)
- Mr. Harold Edge
- Miss Sandra McCombs (Assistant)

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*Sylvia Chambers    Sandra Howes*  
*Conrad Chambers    Delia Howes*  
Some Explorer Leaders down through the years:  
Mrs. Harold Edge  
Mrs. Albert Mellor  
Mrs. Percy Bowins

Some C. G. I. T. Leaders down through the years:

- Mrs. P.M. Sherk
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- Miss Mildred Learn
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- Mrs. Harold Shisler (Present)

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Some Scout Leaders down through the years:

- James Dawson
- John A. Benner
- Harold Shisler
- Allan Wilhelm (Present)
- Rev. C. R. Riggs    Assistant
- Chester Thomas    Assistant

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Some Cub Leaders down through the years

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- Mrs. S. A. Moote
- Mrs. Perry Sherk
- Miss Edna Bearss

\* \* \* \* \*  
The Sunday School records show that in 1918, on June 2nd. Russell Robbins was presented with a wrist watch by Emmanuel Zavitz Secretary of the Sunday School.

## MEMBERSHIP ROLL MAY 5th., 1963

Bearss Ruth	Bearss Frances
Bearss Thomas	Bearss Lorraine
Bearss Howard	Bearss Mrs. Howard
Bearss Gerald	
Benner Mrs. A. R.	Benner Jane
Benner Margaret	
Bowins Mrs. Percy	
Brennan Fraser D.	Brennan Mrs. F. D.
Chambers Osmond	Chambers Mrs. Osmond
Chambers Sylvia	
Damude Raymond Sr.	Damude Mrs. Raymond
Damude Betty	
Elliott Donald	Elliott Mrs. Donald
Ewing James	Ewing Mrs. James
Fraser Bertram	Fraser Mrs. Bertram
Furry Mrs. Frank	
Hicks Mrs. W. H.	
Howes Garfield	Howes Mrs. Garfield
Howes Doreen	
Hoyle Gordon L.	Hoyle Mrs. G. L.
Hoyle Holly	
Kromkamp Raymond	Kromkamp Mrs. R.
Kromkamp Ralph	Kromkamp Eleta
Kromkamp William	
Misener Mrs Ellen	Misener Jeanette
Mellor Albert	Mellor Mrs. Albert

Matthews James R.	Matthews Mrs. J. R.
McCombs Gordon	McCombs Mrs. Gordon
McCombs Sandra	
Page Archie	Page Mrs. Archie
Page Gale	Page Terry
Page Mrs. Howard	
Patterson Stanley	Peterson Mrs. Roy
Patterson Donald	Patterson Mrs. S.
Patterson Sharon	Patterson Wayne
	Patterson Linda
Carl Mrs. Douglas	Riggs Mrs. C. R.
	Riggs Jean
Klauck Sally	
Schooley Leroy	Schooley Mrs. Leroy
Schooley Patsy	
Schoehals Frances	Schoehals Karen
Shisler Mrs. Bruce	Shisler Harold
Shisler Mrs. Harold	Shisler Stanley
Shisler Linda	Shisler Mrs. Raymond
Sherk Perry M.	Sherk Mrs. P. M.
Stickles Ronald	Stickles Mrs. R.
Stickles Linda	Stickles Patricia
Smith Mrs. Jack	Teal Mrs. Kenneth
Terreberry Earl	Terreberry Mrs. E.
Terreberry Jack	
Thomas Chester	Thomas Mrs. Chester
Termaaton Hank	Termaaton Mrs. H.
Wilhelm Harding	Wilhelm Mrs. Harding



Wilhelm Joseph  
Wilhelm Edna  
Wilhelm William

Wilhelm Mrs. Joseph  
Wilhelm James

Wilhelm Allan

Wilhelm Mrs. Allan

Wills Mrs. Gary

Young Allan

Young Mrs. Allan

Zimmerman Vincent

Zimmerman Mrs. V.

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1863

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1963

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I would be true, for there are those who  
trust me;  
I would be pure, for there are those who  
care;  
I would be strong, for there is much to  
suffer;  
I would be brave, for there is much to  
dare.

I would be friend of all - the foe, the  
friendless;  
I would be giving, and forget the gift;  
I would be humble, for I know my  
weakness;  
I would look up, and laugh, and love,  
and lift.

Howard Arnold Walters  
(1883-1918)