

In eighteen hundred and seventy-five,  
None of us here were yet alive.

But all of us who are seated here,  
Believe that this church was built that year.

It was built with a trestle-work very strong,  
Otherwise it couldn't have lasted so long.

My great-grandfather, Abram, who donated the land,  
Served as bishop. (Later his son did, I understand.)

On May the fifteenth of seventy-five,  
Jacob D. Sider's first baby arrived.

This babe was named Andrew, and I have been told  
He was brought to church here when just six weeks old.

July first was the day that Bert Sherk was born  
To the David Sherk family on that happy morn.

This baby was not brought to church as a child  
But instead, I am told, was considered quite wild.

He watched deacon Chris Bitner, drive to church week by week.  
He drove in his buggy through storm and through sleet.

Thus God sent conviction that changed him about  
Bro. Sherk was converted within and without.

If Bishop Sherk and deacon Andrew were here with us today  
They'd each be one hundred, how time slips away.

When additions were added in nineteen eleven,  
The church was shaped like a cross, pointing people to Heaven.

The little room at the back contains memories sweet,  
It was such a great pleasure rocking babies to sleep,

In the large wooden cradle, Pappy made for the twins,  
My grandma and Aunt Sarah, for them to sleep in.

Our ancestors believed, as we still do today,  
That babies should come, never keep them away.

A large clock ticked loudly for years on that wall,  
And a long bench graced the platform to seat preachers all

Who were asked to come forward, invited to speak,  
As the Spirit would prompt them, His will they would seek.

There were times we were crowded, People travelled for miles,  
Boards on pegs from the benches, made seats in the aisles.

We were known as the Dunkards, for miles around,  
Before the church building was built on these grounds.

My grandparents and relatives I think of today  
Have left good impressions by the things they would say.

Their godly lives matched up, with the way they were dressed,  
By their worthy example, our lives have been blessed.

Nicholas Michael was a man rich in faith, strong in prayer,  
Martin Climenhaga preached barefooted, and nobody cared.

George Detwiler introduced Gospel Songs One to Five,  
Asa Bearss, solemnized many weddings, when he was alive.

Abram Zimmerman was a preacher who preached long ago.  
Girven Bearss, too, preached here, as some of you know.

Bishop Alvin Winger preached here while still a young man,  
Was a good Bible teacher, for the right took his stand.

In May of the year nineteen hundred and three  
There were forty baptized in this community.

These were saved in revivals when John Hoover preached,  
Also Noah and J. R. Zook, with the sanctification message reached.

Well-attended revivals have been held through the years.  
Many sinners repented, then smiled through their tears.

Our Canadian bishop, and hundreds as well  
Sought God at this alter, they're happy to tell.

The last half of the Century, since I can remember  
Is ch~~ick~~ck-full of memories, I'll cherish forever.

We've had <sup>many</sup> fine preachers who've preached clearly the Word  
Without fear or favour. They'll have their reward.

Albert Riegler encouraged me to testify as a child.  
Warren Winger's life inspired me with manner so mild.

Uncle Ed Nigh was respected wherever he went.  
Bishop Sherk prayed for the sick, not receiving a cent.

Jesse Winger preached here in an interesting style.  
James Sider was called to the ministry and served here awhile.

I appreciated the messages H. H. Brubaker gave.  
Also Elmer Steckley speaketh, tho' now in his grave.

Bishop Charlton served faithfully for many long years.  
His concern was for Bertie. He shed many tears.

We're glad for the messages Wilbur Benner did bring.  
Edward Gilmore now points us, to Jesus the King.

For a quarter of a century Ross Nigh has pastored Falls View  
Doug Sider was called first to Welland, now he's in Saskatoon.

A missionary emphasis here has been strong.  
Bert Sider's in Nicaragua. New recruits are needed ere long.

Walter Winger for missionaries has challenged until  
Shirley and Phyllis left for India, Miriam Fretz for Brazil.

Raymond Sider spent three years with the Indians of Timber Bay.  
Don and Marion Sider with the Navajos are working today.

Other Bertie Sunday School scholars, who to Africa went in  
Are John Climenhaga, Lester, Lamar, Anna Mae, Marilyn,

Lorne Ruegg, Betty Winger, and Leonard and Mark,  
Yes, Edward Sider also, for Africa has embarked.

Welland, Clarence Centre, Falls View, Wainfleet and Sherkston  
Have their roots here at Bertie. They seem like her children.

In this centennial year, nineteen seventy-five  
It's so good to be here. Let's for the Lord stay alive.

I hope I've not bored you by rambling too long.  
Right now (I assure you) I'm ending my song.

