

It is believed that prior to the forming of the recognized Baptist Church and the building of the present church building, that meetings were held each week in a log building situated on the townline road west of Brownsville and south of the 10th, concession. This group were called, "Baptist Faith Missions". This building was left standing several years after the present church was built in the village. One of the regular members, now deceased attended these meetings at the "Faith Mission", and recalled many families travelling to church with teams of horses and sleighs.

The laying of the cornerstone of the present church took place on July 26, 1880, and Rev. B. P. Brown was invited to perform the ceremony. The brick for the church was made in a tile yard located on the townline road west of Brownsville, where Mack Bearss farm is now.

In 1886, the remuneration for cleaning and lighting the Chapel annually was \$30.00. Also in 1886, November 27th, Mr. George B. Brown was given license by the church to preach the gospel under sanction of the church.

In the year 1890, the pastor's salary was \$350.00. and \$76.63 was sent to missions.

In 1901 Pastor J. B. Moore resigned and W. J. H. Brown, pastor ^{Meete's} Brown's son-in-law was unanimously voted to supply as pastor.

On February 3rd, 1901 a motion by John Kaar, and seconded by John Clarke Sr., was carried to call W. J. H. Brown as permanent pastor of the church at a salary of \$8.00 per week.

Mr. William James Hay Brown was the son of Brinton Paine Brown. He was the only child of the second marriage. He lived his early years with his father and mother on the 9th concession of Dereham. Reverend Gordon Brown, former dean of the Baptist Seminary, Toronto who was the son of W. J. H. Brown recalls his father telling him how through the efforts of his grandmother Brown, they all came to church in the democrat. His Grandfather Benajah Brown and Grandmother Margaret Hay Brown moved to the village and lived there until his death in 1910. The house is now owned by Carl Rothenberg.

In 1900, the members on the Sunday School roll was 135, with a total of 3388,000 bible verses learned.

On July 17th, 1902, Mr. W. J. H. Brown was ordained. Churches invited to attend included Tillsonburg, Springford, Salford, Norwich, Ingersoll, Woodstock, Brantford, Waterford, Aylmer, St. Thomas, Sparta, Delhi, Langton, East Zorra and Springfield. On May 22nd, 1905 letters of dismissal were granted to Rev. W. J. H. Brown and his wife to unite with others and form a church now known as Shenstone Memorial Baptist Church in Brantford.

In 1905 the total number of members were 129.

A ladies mission circle was formed previous to this date. Also in 1905 Deacons Mr. W. A. Elkat and Mr. Ira Harris canvassed the field and secured enough in cash and notes to buy a desirable property for a parsonage.

In 1913 an Annex was built on the main auditorium of the church at a total cost \$389.26, paid for by subscriptions.

A Baptist Young Peoples Union was formed several years previous to 1913 and was well attended. Also in the 1800's a large organ was purchased from the "Karn Organ Co", and each Lord's Day, a field choir was enjoyed by the congregation.

In 1917 a horse was purchased for the residing pastor, Rev. Cunningham, at a cost of \$130.00.

Pastor Cunningham was a very familiar sight in his Scottish cap, with his horse and buggy, not only visiting members of his congregation but everyone in the area. He was loved by all in the community.

In 1920 electric power was installed in the church.

On October 25th, 1927, a group of the Baptist Churches of Ontario and Quebec Joined a new Convention of Regular Baptist Churches of Ontario and Quebec and a new Constitution was formed protesting against the departure of Baptist Churches from the fundamental principles of the word of God as told in history. On the motion of two remaining Charter members Mr. Rodger Hawkins, and Mr. John Kaar, the Brownsville Baptist joined with this group.

