

## THE CHURCH

This year (1981), Delmer United Church will observe its 75th Anniversary.

Members of our congregation now and members who have moved away, will meet to celebrate this important event, in the life of our Church.

It will be an occasion, of rejoicing, of thanksgiving and of rededication, to the service of Mankind everywhere. It is fitting, on such an occasion, to turn back the pages of history, to give our members, a broader concept of the heritage, which is ours.

Because of the lack of written records, there may be many who are unnamed. We ask you to forgive these omissions.

Preparation of this historical sketch has been a challenging project. I am sure that as we enter this last quarter of one hundred years, you will enjoy the brief history of the past.

May this summary encourage us to work harder to continue the ministry of this Church to the everlasting glory of God.



To understand the Church life, of our community, we must know a little of the early settlers.

The earliest settlers of this area were the Neutral Indians. They lived along the creeks and made their living hunting and trapping. Forests covered the land and there were no roads.

In 1841, people from Europe, the British Isles, the United States and part of Ontario came. Trees were blazed and tracks were made wide enough for a sleigh or wagon to travel on.

These settlers settled on a piece of land, built a house, usually of logs, and cleared the land. In three years the government gave them a deed to it. The village was first known as Willow Grove, then Brigham's Corners before it became Delmer. It was named Brigham's Corners after Mr. Timothy R. Brigham. He came from the New England States in the early eighties. A Post Office was opened here by Mr. VanNorman.

It is a good and faithful thing to know, that men take God to guide them as they go. A log school house was built just west of our present Church and the first Sunday School and Church was held in it.

As stated before, Delmer was then known as Brigham's Corners, after Mr. Timothy R. Brigham. He was a great grandfather of the late Mrs. J.R. McClintock. He gave the land for the school and the old cemetery. He built a home, where Harold McDowell now lives. A log church was also built on the land, beside the school. It was served by preachers from the Malahide circuit, in Elgin County. A man and his wife from Norwich came on horseback. They were called saddle bag preachers.