

Edith Honour

1857 - 100th Anniversary - 1957

Delaware United Church

Third Line



Tuscarora

Township

Sunday, July 28th, 1957 - 3.00 p.m.

Rev. G. Elliott, Minister

— **By Wapanahki** —
(The Delawares)

IN 1853, A DELAWARE INDIAN EVANGELIST who had preached the Gospel on the Oneida and Muncey Reserves, west of St. Thomas, Ontario, for fifteen years, came to the Delaware country of the Six Nations Reserve. His wife had died and with his son Lazarus, he arrived with his belongings piled on a wagon drawn by oxen. His name was William Montour and he was answering the call that had gone forth for Christian teaching among the Delawares. They had come from the U.S.A. as United Empire Loyalists and had recently forsaken their Longhouse religion. They were in a state of religious transition and were in great mental turmoil.

Christianity was being interpreted in a variety of ways, feeling was running high and the lives of the faithful were sometimes endangered. Not knowing that "The Great Spirit" and God were one and the same, the Delawares were floundering around in the dark. Longhouse Pow-wows were still being held in some houses.

William Montour, in his 43rd year, stood tall and sinewy from much outdoor life. He talked far into the night with his brothers Bill and John, who had remained in this district.

Their story grieved William deeply. He said "I have come to fight this evil and with God's help, we shall win."

His nephew, John, who by this time was a fine young man, said "Uncle William, how can we win, when we are told that 'The Great Spirit' is so much stronger than God?"

William drew a Bible from his buckskin coat and declared, "From this Book, I am going to teach everyone that the Great