

Spirit is God and God is the Great Spirit."

John then responded, "I am going to work with you. But, first we must talk to John Wampum, who has turned out to be a man of God, since leaving the longhouse. He is wise in most things but wants to know more about the Bible."

John Wampum received them with great joy and said to William, "My, I am glad you have come back to us. We are badly in need of your knowledge of this new way of Life. We always knew that the Great Spirit looked after all our needs. But this new approach through Jesus Christ, we don't fully understand. I have two hundred acres of land and bush. You may have anything that I have to help you with this work."

William and his nephew John began work by clearing away some timber in the bush. They split logs for benches. They were soon joined by others in this community effort. Just off the old Townsend road, near what is now the Third Line, Tuscarora, the first meetings were held.

It was discouraging, at first, since most of the congregation were peering out from the surrounding bushes. But, as time passed, William's preaching began to take effect and soon large crowds were attracted to the meetings. The old-time singing in the Delaware language could be heard for a good distance around.

In 1857, the Mississaugas of New Credit Church were a going concern, having been started in 1825. They had a beautiful church, built under the ministry of the Rev. Peter Jones.

Early in that year, William Montour and his nephew John attended a Church Board meeting there. William could speak Delaware, Chippewa and French as well as English. He told the Board what was being done at Delaware. There, plans had been made to build a Church and to become a part of the Methodist Mission. They were accepted and promised all possible help.

That night, trudging through the heavy bush on their way home, they stopped on the south bank of the Boston Creek to rest. Down below, at the waters edge, their canoe was silhouetted against the creek waters, tugging at its moorings. The tall timber to the north of them, stood dark and silent.

William said, "John, my nephew, we are going to put up a building that will be known as the Delaware Methodist Church. But the work will be hard and worrisome. Let us pray for strength, courage and Divine guidance." After their prayer in Delaware, John took his uncle's arm and they went down to their canoe.

One of the first donations to this church was the acre of land on which it now stands. This was given by Miss Amanda John, who later became Mrs. John Cornelius.

The men cut and hewed the timber with "broad axes", while the women served hot meals right in the bush. All hands went to work with a will, but soon opposition arose in a form they were least expecting. Each night, the log walls were torn down and the sills, joists and rafters damaged. It required three teams of oxen to haul the large boulders for the foundation up the hill. These were found rolled down again the next morning.