

Religious

The cultivation of the spiritual side of life so essential to the development of every community is evinced by Brantford's many churches. The first church to be established in Brantford was the Church of England. In the presence of the present edifice of Grace Church, with its lofty belfry and recently installed chimes it is difficult to mentally visualize its little frame predecessor, to encourage the erection of which, Chief John Brant, in 1830 gave three acres of land.

So behind many of the numerous religious denominations and sects, now represented by interesting strands of history, that might be unwound. But the chronological order of erection would fail to furnish rightful precedence as the oldest buildings do not always represent the earliest formed congregations.

Mother churches, Anglican, Methodist, Roman Catholic, Presbyterian and Baptist, after becoming firmly established have sent out flourishing branches in various parts of the city until opportunities for worship in Brantford have become manifold.

His Majesty's Chapel of the Mohawks

This church, more familiarly known as "the Old Mohawk Church," was the first Protestant Church in Canada. It was built by John K. Smith and his son, United Empire Loyalists in 1785. No regular minister was in charge during the first forty years of its existence. In 1823 the New England Company assumed charge of the Six Nation Mission, which it retains to the present day. Rev. Wm. Hough was sent out as the first missionary. The following incumbents have succeeded him: Rev. Robert Luggier, Rev. Abraham Nelles, Rev. Robert Ashton, Rev. C. M. Turnell, M. A.

In 1829 the church was considerably altered and partially rebuilt and the following year was consecrated by the Bishop of Quebec.

The ancient church possess many relics of rare historic interest:—a silver Communion Service, the gift of Queen Anne and a bible presented by the same royal Sovereign, in which is inscribed the names of royal visitors, are particularly revered. Tablets inscribed with the "Lord's Prayer," "Ten Commandments," and "Apostle's Creed," in Mohawk, and the Royal Coat of Arms of George III above the entrance were sent from England by the Government in 1876. One of the most interesting relics is the veteran church bell of Ontario, which first summoned the Red Man to the House of Prayer. Beneath the shadow of the little church, whose infancy he so tenderly cherished, sleeps Joseph Brant, whose heroic figure stands boldly out from the pages of British history. His memory is revered by the Red Man and honored by the White, as his epitaph testifies:

"This tomb is erected to the memory of Thayendanegea or Captain Joseph Brant, principal chief and warrior of the Six Nation Indians, by his fellow-subjects and admirers of his fidelity and attachment to the British Crown."

The tomb, erected 1850, also contains the remains of Captain Joseph Brant—Tekarihogea—who succeeded his father.