

A Brief Historical Sketch

The Land now occupied by the City of Brantford was originally owned by the Six Nation Indians, but was on April 19th, 1830, surrendered by them to the Government. The first lot was sold October 1st, 1830. The next lot sold was No. 16 on the north side of Colborne Street to Jedediah Jackson who was a great friend of the church. It was in an unfinished frame building on the east part of the lot that the church was first organized. This part of the lot is now occupied by Messrs Grafton & Co.

For several years a schoolhouse situated where the City Hall now stands, was the only public building in the village and was used for all manner of public and religious services. Brantford in 1833 had a population of not more than four or five hundred.

Rev. Wm. Rees, the first pastor of the church arrived in Brantford in August, 1833. One reason given why he chose Brantford was that while passing over the Grand River he looked into its clear waters and exclaimed "Oh, what a grand place for a Baptist Church." Before settling here he was offered a lot and a thousand dollar chapel if he would settle in Paris. He refused the offer with the remark that "I have consecrated my life and energy both of body and soul to God on the banks of the Grand River at Brantford and there I must go."

On the 23rd of December, 1833, a church of twenty-six members was regularly constituted