

# Fifty . Years . of . Service

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***In the Beginning*** The foundations of Methodism in the Niagara Peninsula and Western Ontario were laid in the latter part of the Eighteenth Century.

In the first year of the Nineteenth Century all this Western section of the Province, from the Niagara to the Thames River was one circuit, with a total membership of 320

The first division of the Niagara circuit was in 1807. A second in 1808 detached the Ancaster circuit, which included the present City of Hamilton.

With further expansion other circuits were set off, until in 1835 the name of Ancaster disappeared, and Hamilton was made the head of one of the six circuits comprised within the boundaries of the old Niagara circuit, and the Methodist membership now totaled 2456.

***The Mother Church*** In 1840 the union of Canadian and British Methodism was sundered. A re-union took place later. Congregations that had divided, on again uniting, found themselves too large for their Church accommodation, with the result that from the old first Methodist Mother Church on King Street East, where in succession has stood, first a log, then a frame, then a stone church, and now the splendid edifice of recent construction, there sprang, first, what is now known as "Wesley," but then as the "Brick" Church; and later on another Church farther west, with which, and its successor, this brief sketch is more particularly concerned.

Connected with Methodism as far back as the thirties of last century we find the names of Edward and Lydia Jackson, Dennis Moore, Frederick Watkins, Tristram Bickle and John