

Pioneer white churches bring back Loyalist settlers' memories

Memories of Loyalist Upper Canada and New England are brought back by the beautiful white pioneer churches of Northumberland county. Many of these churches are survivors from just after the early period of Loyalist settlement while others were built much later but carried on the old traditional architecture. White clapboard, with or without steeples, the churches are almost all on, or close to, old Highway 2.

Oldest in the group is **ST. MARK'S ANGLICAN, PORT HOPE**, which was built in 1822. It stands high on a hill in the town's east side and is shown in a print done by artist W.H. Bartlett when there was little else to be seen in Port Hope. Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip worshipped here in 1959, and were accompanied by the Rt. Hon. Vincent Massey, a Port Hope resident and Canada's first native-born governor-general, who was a member of the parish.

Almost as old, is **HALDIMAND BAPTIST, WICKLOW**, which was built in 1824. This is the oldest surviving Baptist church in Ontario. The congregation began in 1798 when Cramahe and Haldimand Baptists united. Progress was interrupted by the War of 1812 but in 1817 Haldimand Baptists established their own congregation and built this box-like building a few years later. The church is on Highway 2 at Wicklow, between Grafton and Colborne.

ST. ANDREW'S, VERNONVILLE, which was built in 1862, has the tallest spire of all the county's white churches. On the front of the building is a painted clock face with the time stopped forever at 2:30. The builder of this beautiful church was William Grieve of Cobourg. To reach Vernonville, take the Shelter Valley Road east of Grafton and drive north for five miles along the picturesque Shelter Valley Creek.

ST. ANDREW'S, GRAFTON, which was built in 1844, has a beautiful white spire capping the building. The church is located just south of Highway 2 from the village's main intersection.

TRINITY ANGLICAN, COLBORNE, built in 1846, once had a painted clock face on its front like the church in Vernonville. This has long since been painted over with the church's name and date of construction. The church is on Highway 2 at the east end of the village.

SALEM UNITED, which was built in 1861, is located on Highway 2 a few miles east of Colborne. Its squat tower is a recent addition.

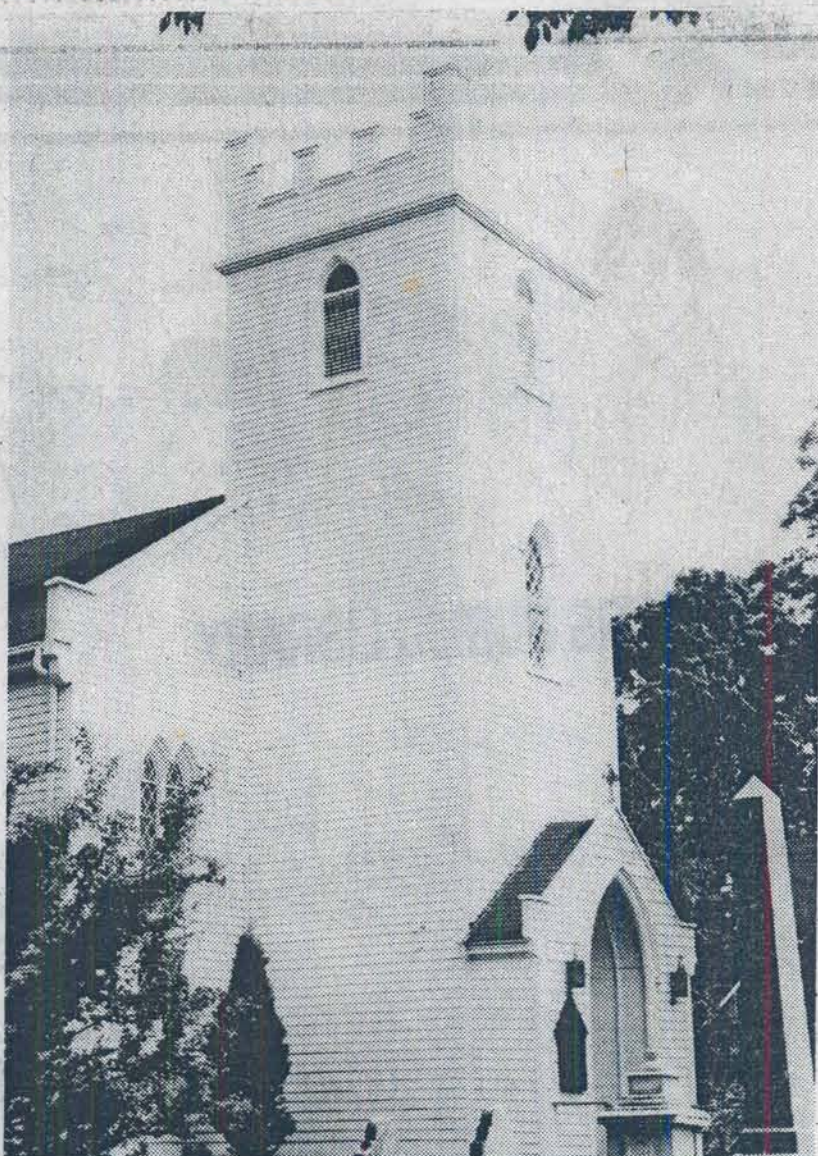
EDDYSTONE UNITED, built in 1857, is located five miles north of Grafton Village just off County Road 23 (Aird St.). To

find Eddystone, watch for Pipeline Drive four miles north of the 401. The Eddystone Road, which runs east, is a quarter mile further north. The little white church is about one mile east down Eddystone Road.

BRIGHTON BAPTIST, built in 1880, is a much later white frame church, but it inherited

the earlier Northumberland vernacular style of a generation or so before.

KENDAL UNITED, which was originally built in 1870 and rebuilt in 1900, is a later church also. It is in the village of Kendal and is clearly visible across a field from Durham County Road 9, north of Newcastle.



BUILT IN 1822 -- Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip worshipped here in 1959. Port Hope's St. Mark's Anglican Church is the oldest surviving church in Northumberland county.



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH -- Haldimand Baptist Church (1824) is the oldest surviving Baptist Church in Ontario. The congregation began in 1798 when Cramahe and Haldimand Baptists united. Progress was interrupted by the War of 1812. But in 1817, Haldimand Baptists established their own congregation and built this building. It stands on highway 2 near Wicklow. Services are at 7:30 p.m. July 3, 10, 17. The 185th anniversary is at 3 p.m. July 24.