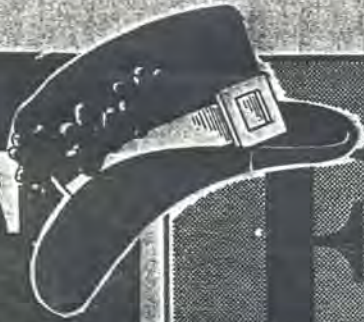


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POST



The Satur

A-Hamilton Township
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The
Congregational
Church Manse
in Upper
Cold Springs





The Congregational Church M

By Barry F. King

"About halfway between Cobourg and Rice Lake, there is a pretty valley between two steep hills. Here there is a good deal of cleared land and a tavern; the place is called the 'Cold Springs.' Who knows but some century or two hence this spot may become a fashionable place of resort to drink the waters. A Canadian Bath or Cheltenham may spring up where now Nature revels in her wilderness of forest trees."

Catharine Parr Trail

Once called 'Derry' by its early Irish settlers, the community at the top of the hill, north of Cold Springs, came to be known as Upper Cold Springs. It was to this place that the Rev. William Hayden came about 1840, to found a Congregational Church.

Born in England in 1786, the Reverend came to Cobourg in 1835 under official ecclesiastical orders from the Colonial Missionary Society of the Congregational Union of England and Wales. He was "to establish more firmly" the Congregational faith in the town and was guaranteed a salary for the first year of his mission. Wasting no time, he founded a church on King Street West, where Cobourg Collegiate's east wing now stands. Mrs. Hayden, in turn, founded the Congregational Sabbath School.

Though he remained the church pastor at Cobourg until 1845, he still found time to travel on horseback over the rough plank road to Cold Springs, where he conducted services in the schoolhouse. A wooden structure was eventu-

ally built and Rev. Hayden became its first pastor. Both of the churches, founded by Rev. Hayden, prospered and required various improvements and expansions. The Manse in Cold Springs did not fare as well with fire destroying perhaps as many as three of the Reverend's successive homes. In 1865, after "a long and painful illness, borne with Christian fortitude," Rev. Hayden died and was laid to rest in the churchyard cemetery.

Cold Springs Pioneer Cemetery, as it is now called, contains the graves of many early settlers, with dates ranging from the mid-nineteenth century. Pioneer family names include: Cochrane, Nelson, Rosevear, Kelly, Ball, Campbell, Crossen, Sidey, Davidson, Watt and Sleep, as well as the Reverends Pedley, Shallcross,



Manse in Upper Cold Springs

McCormick and Owen. A complete list is located in Cobourg Public Library.

At Upper Cold Springs, a new church, of brick, was built in 1875, and, it is thought, a new Manse as well. Recently restored, the old residence, with its gothic window and gingerbread trim, looks much as it did a century ago. The church survived until 1958. It had been vacant since 1830 when the congregation had joined with nearby St. Paul's United Church, and was used only for the annual decoration service. Today a cairn marks the site on the Sixth Line, just across the road from the Manse, of the old Congregational Church.

In addition to being the superintendent of the Cobourg Sunday School, Mrs. Hayden raised a family which included

the Rev. William Hayden Jr., Joseph and John Hayden, a prominent Cobourg hardware merchant. Two daughters became Mrs. Joseph Crossen and Mrs. William Kerr. Grandsons were John Hayden, first chairman of the Board of the Cobourg Hospital, and the renowned Dr. William Edgar Hayden.

In recognition of Mrs. Hayden's dedication to the Sunday School, a stained glass window, entitled "Christ and the Children," was placed in the new Sabbath School building constructed adjacent to the King Street Church in 1878. After the Cobourg Congregational Church (later called King Street United) was sold, the window was moved to the north gallery of Trinity United Church on Division Street.

The early community of Up-

per Cold Springs existed in a time of simpler values. Each July, the Sunday School would celebrate its anniversary with a well-attended service. The Reverend would deliver an address, recitative exercises would be performed by the children, and the school choir would sing the old hymn *Rock Of Ages or Sweet By And By*. It was reported "after tea, the young people amused themselves by playing baseball and other games, and went to their homes as the shade of evening gathered around them, feeling that they had a very pleasant time." In the gentle words of the observer of a century ago: "As the last words of the chorus were sung, the music of those youthful voices seemed to hang in the air for a moment and then float away in a sweet soft cadence."