

# Upper Canada College here?

Did Upper Canada College start in Georgetown? According to a woman Jean and Margery MacKenzie knew in their youth, it did.

The early school was in a white house on the corner of Maple and Parkview Avenues and was operated by a Rev. Charles Dade.

Rev. Dade's pupils erected a monument to him some time after his death. It is in the cemetery beside St. George's Anglican Church. Money that was left over from the tombstone was used to buy stained glass windows for St. George's Church.

Jean MacKenzie recalls that Rev. Dade's daughter used to sit where the light coming through those windows fell on her when she attended services. Mrs. Nell Gardiner, 91, remembers Miss Dade as the organist at the Congregational Church. The Dade tombstone gives Miss Dade's name as Amy. She died in 1924 at the age of 73.

According to the monument, Rev. Dade was a Fellow of Caisie College, Cambridge. He died May 2, 1872 at the age of 70.

That Rev. Dade started the college in Georgetown, moved it to Weston, then finally set it up in the present location seems unlikely. However a Georgetown resident from pioneer times says he was connected with it.

C.W. Young, son of the James Young so often mentioned as one of Georgetown's founders, wrote letters to The Herald in 1920. In one of them he remembers Rev. Dade.

"Rev. Charles Dade, who had been the first Mathematical Master at Upper Canada College, Toronto, lived on the road between Georgetown and Stewarttown, and also conducted a private school for preparing university pupils. The writer of these notes had the privilege of his instruction. He also churches in the vicinity. A Cambridge wrangler he was a ripe scholar, who taught boys a great many things that were not in the text books, and insisted on their memorizing gems of the classics, which even yet are a delight to recall."

"The hours of school were from nine to two, and on Saturdays from nine to eleven. On Saturdays he used to write a dozen questions on the blackboard in arithmetic or euclid or algebra, and the boy who was clever enough to do them correctly and speedily could skip as soon as he completed his written answers, and be rewarded with a York Shilling (12½ cents) which was a good deal more money in those times than now."

"Mr. Dade had a rare faculty of clothing with flesh the dry bones of history, and making human entities of the names we read of in the classics. When we were reading Caesar's Commentaries, he had us construct in miniature a bridge across the Rhone from the specifications of the illustrious Roman general, and if we did not rebuild the wooden horse from Virgil's Aeneid and fashion a derrick with which Ulysses bored out the single eye of the Cyclops, we used to talk about doing so and draw pictures of these famous incidents."

"Mr. Dade had a habit of writing little bits of poetry for the edification of his pupils which were often more effective than punishment would have been. Here are a couple of specimens that I remember:

For a lazy boy:  
"He eats and plays and sleeps, what then?  
He eats and plays and sleeps again."

Mind your cases:  
"Remember boy, in its proper place  
Always to put your nominative case.  
And when two words are nearly alike,  
Upon the right one be sure to strike."

Rev. Dade's wife, Helen, was the daughter of an early Halton minister, Dr. Phillips. She died in 1882 at the age of 69.

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