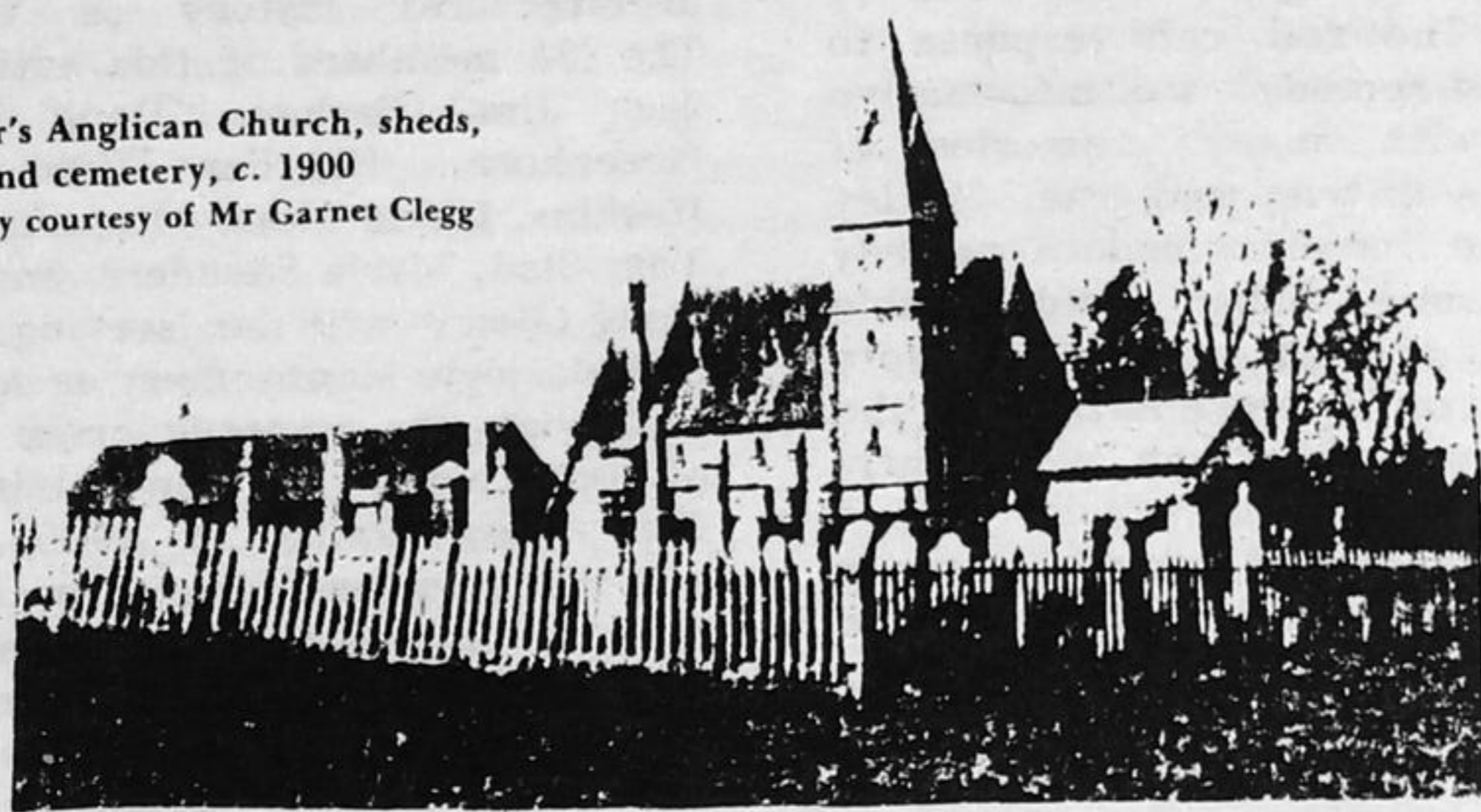


## St Peter's Anglican Church

St Peter's Anglican Church, sheds, vault and cemetery, c. 1900  
Photo by courtesy of Mr Garnet Clegg



The Church and vault were designated in 1985. Grants are available for exterior restoration of designated buildings and St. Peter's has taken advantage of this assistance.

The Lantern thanks D. Haskins for permission to reprint this and other items from the book **My Own Four Walls**.

The Lantern would welcome any submissions for the FOCUS series. If you have researched any local buildings or residences, or have compiled information relating to the history of our area, either architectural, geneological or other, we would be most pleased to consider it for publication in future issues. Articles may be sent to: Box 136, Elgin, Ont. KOG 1E0, attention P. Little.

### FOCUS on ST. PETER'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

**Location:** Newboyne Road, **Built:** 1873, **Original and Present Owners:** Anglican Diocese of Ontario.

Starting in the 1820's, a great number of families emigrating from Ireland had settled in this area. The St. Peter's Mission began in the community between 1845 and 1850 when John O'Neil of New Dublin, Ontario, was appointed as lay reader.

The first church, of wooden construction, was erected in 1852. The one and one quarter acres on which it stood had been donated by John Cawley to the Anglican Church for "the sole purpose of constructing a church." John Cawley was an Irish emigrant who had come to Canada prior to 1840. In that year he bought a section of Lot 6, Concession 3 from William Johnson, the original owner of the land. Here he farmed, erected his fine home and it was a parcel of this land which he donated to the Anglican Church.

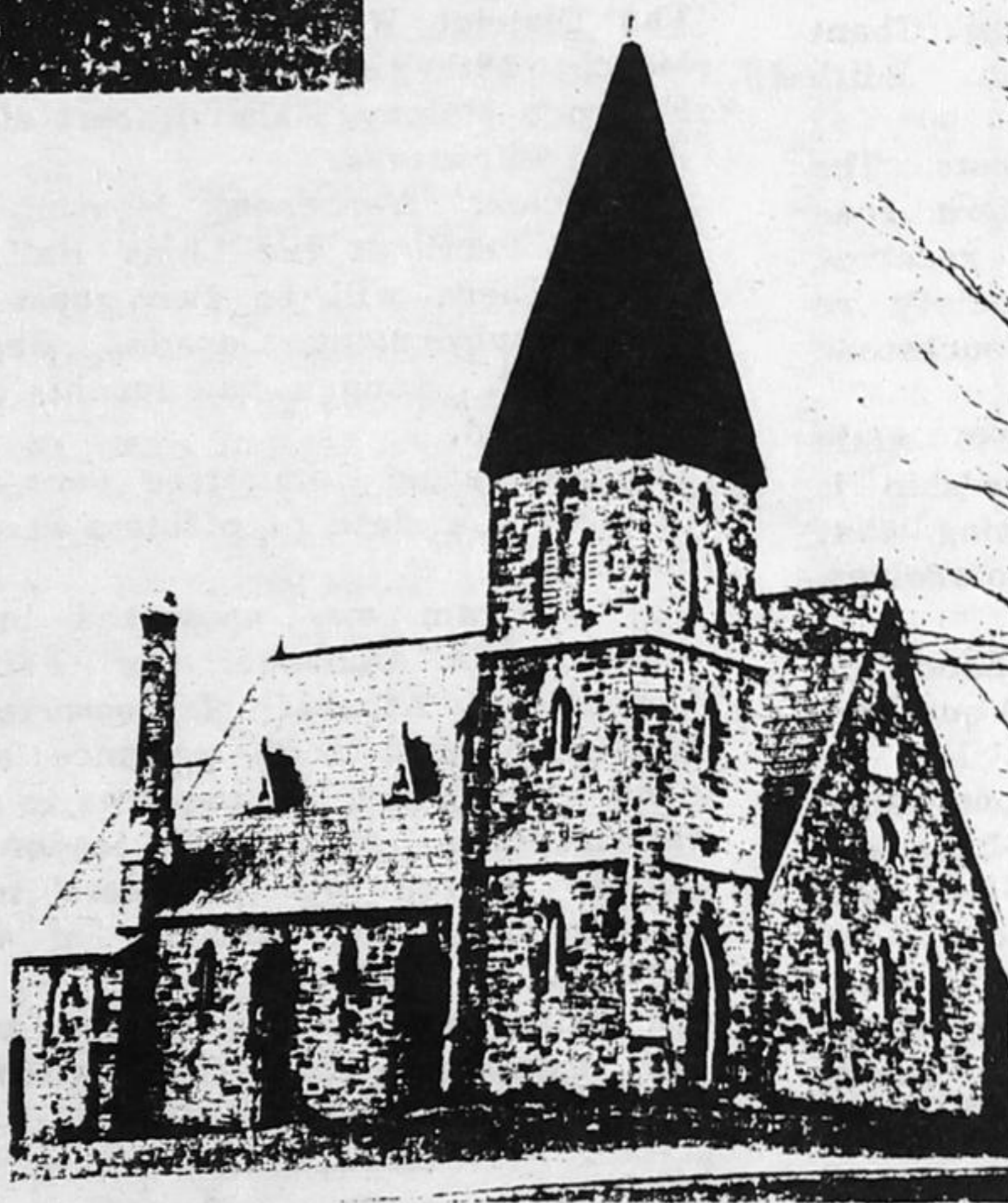
Everyone must have been very pleased when their first church was finally erected. But the rapidly increasing population soon made the size of the building inadequate.

By 1872, it had been decided that a new church was needed. The minute book which recorded this decision stated as follows:

It was moved by William Robinson seconded by Michael Gardiner that a building committee for the erection of a new church be appointed and that said committee consist of Reverend F.L. Stephenson, A. Morrison, Anthony Preston, James Joynt, John Preston, Michael Gardiner, Wm. Robinson, Thomas Robinson, George Rodgers, Robert Polk, John Wood, Joseph Kline, I. Robinson, Robert Seymour, T. Rodgers, and B. Lyons.

Accordingly, in 1873, the present stone church was erected. Its construction was tendered out to that master stone-mason from Chantry, William Barber, for the sum of \$1,450. Two men were hired to quarry stone at the rate of one dollar per day; other workers were paid two dollars per week! The interior of the church was finished between 1878 and 1889.

At the beginning of its history, St. Peter's was a mission of the Newboro Parish; then, in 1895, Newboyne and Lombardy formed their own parish, and the same arrangement prevails today. Weekly services are still held at St. Peter's, although, as in most rural churches, the number of families supporting the church has greatly declined. In 1871, 163 families were listed as members of the church. By 1985 the Newboyne area no longer contains the population it once did; this decline is naturally reflected in the church attendance.



St Peter's Anglican Church, 1984

**Structure:** This impressive sandstone church is one of the most elaborate in the township. It is attractively situated on a hill overlooking the vault (the last one remaining in the township) and the cemetery. Rectangular in shape with a short façade, an apse projects from the rear, and a tower with steeple is located at the front south-west corner. The naturally finished sandstone is set in broken courses. **Roof:** Gabled with a high pitch, the roof is covered with metal. The trim includes projecting eaves and verges, a plain fascia, and moulded soffit. **Along the peak is decorative cresting.** Three small triangular dormers with decorative trim are located on each side of the main roof. There are two tall stone chimney-stacks. **Windows:** Gothic style, capped with stone voussoirs and keystones, with plain slip-sills. Several contain stained glass. **Door:** The main entrance, located at the base of the tower, is capped with stone voussoirs. The double doors are surrounded by a moulded wooden frame. Of particular note is the fine wooden detail inside the church.



Interior of St Peter's Anglican Church, c. 1900  
Photo by courtesy of Mrs Marjorie Chant

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