

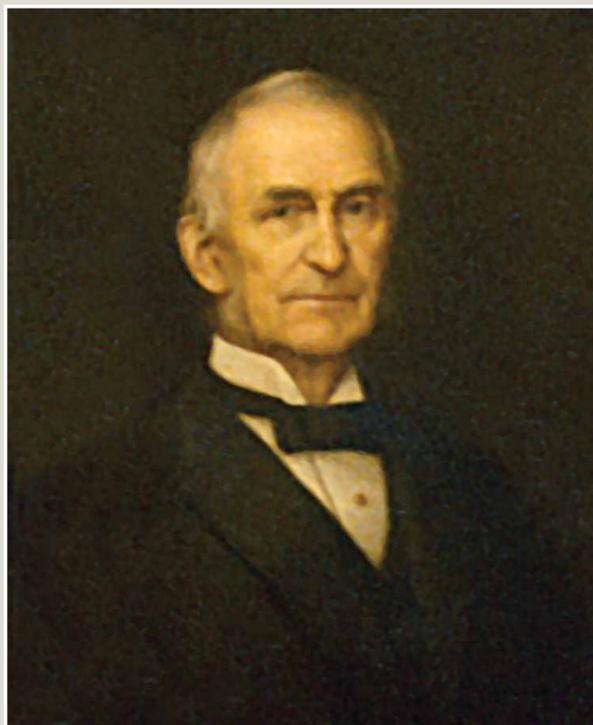
PROMINENT FAMILIES OF THE PERIOD

THE REVEREND JOHN BEATTY 1782-1864

*John Beatty's motto : "No matter where I am,
no matter where I live, I will serve Him"*



The Beatty Homestead



WHO HE WAS:

John Beatty left Ireland in 1810 for New York State. Family tradition states that he intended to found a settlement in Upper Canada, but the War of 1812 delayed his move. Four years after the war ended, **he brought his family and a 26 wagon caravan** with 87 people to a 5000 acre grant of land at Meadowvale, now part of Mississauga. Here Beatty was active in helping to establish the settlement and built his fortune.

HOW HE GOT HERE:

Beatty was always drawn to the Methodist Church. He began holding services in his own home, and then moved on to work without pay as a circuit rider for two weeks each month. Once ordained as a Methodist minister, he was sent to the Bay of Quinte district. Here **he worked with his good friend, Egerton Ryerson**, to found a Methodist Academy. Beatty was tasked with beginning a fundraising program and finding locations suitable for the school. In 1831, with the decision to locate Upper Canada Academy at Cobourg, he moved here with his wife Sarah Sproule (c1785-1832) and their children.

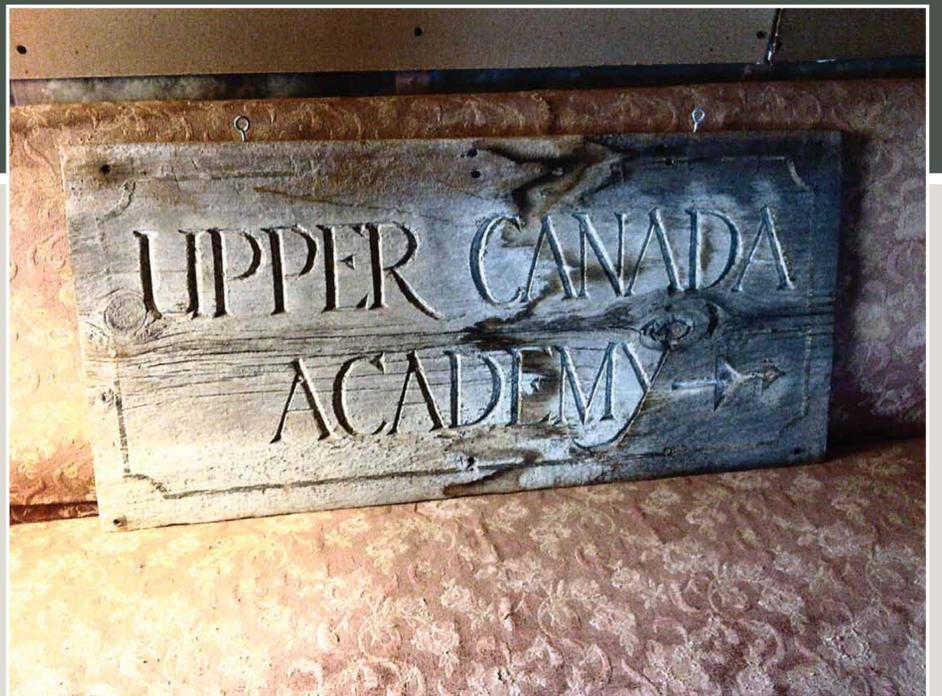
Dr. John Beatty

WHAT HE DID HERE:

Upper Canada Academy, considered to be the first non-Anglican college in the British Empire, became Victoria College in 1841. When the Academy first opened, **Beatty was appointed its first domestic governor**, steward and treasurer. He held these positions until the late 1840s.

About 1840 he built a house addressed today as 130 University Ave. West and died there in 1864. His second wife, widow Rebecca Brooke Kemp, died at the age of 105.

Rev. Beatty's son, Dr. John Beatty, was also heavily involved in the College, a professor of Natural Philosophy and Chemistry as well a member of the Board of Governors. Throughout his life he was intensely involved in the affairs of the town, being a member of every important committee and most institutions, including the road and railway companies, the Newcastle Building Society, the School Board, the Mechanics Institute and the Horticultural Society.



Dr. Beatty and his wife, Eleanor Armstrong, moved to Toronto in 1835. On their return to Cobourg in 1843, Beatty purchased all the lands of his-brother-law, G. B. Spencer, and built Woodlands Cottage, a handsome house just west of Victoria College. He sat on the Town Council for many years and in 1859 **became the first mayor directly elected by the citizenry**.

In 1888 Dr. and Mrs. Beatty celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in Cobourg.

Dr. Beatty died in 1898, quite peacefully while sitting at his breakfast table. His family found him as if paused in reading the paper, upright with his glasses on his forehead.



*Dr. John and Eleanor Armstrong's
50th wedding anniversary*