

PROMINENT FAMILIES OF THE PERIOD

THE REVEREND WILLIAM HAYDEN 1789-1865

a congregation builder and faithful pastor



WHO HE WAS:

William Hayden was instrumental in the establishment of Congregationalism in Cobourg. Born in Kent, England, he was groomed to be an Anglican priest, but that never happened. At the age of 18, out of curiosity, he attended a non-conformist church. Deeply moved by the experience, he left the church of his birth and in 1817 was ordained as a Congregational Minister. For 12 years he served at Frodingham near Hull.

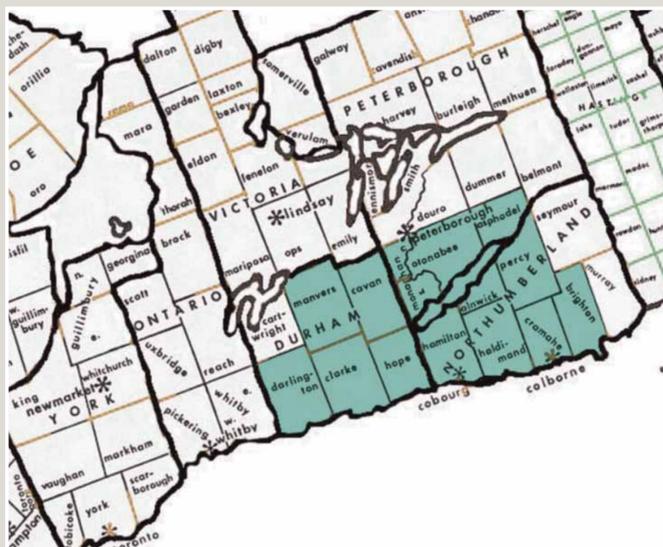
HOW HE GOT HERE:

Hayden was drawn to missionary work in the colonies. He knew that a few of his congregation had immigrated to Canada and this was an inducement for him and his family to settle here. It was two friends, prominent with the London Missionary Society, who recommended Hayden for the Cobourg position.

*Four Generations (r-l)
Jane Kerso, William's wife;
John, their son;
Ida, their granddaughter;
Reynar, their great-granddaughter.*

WHAT HE DID HERE:

Arriving in Cobourg in 1835, Hayden built a small frame chapel on King Street West. His parish extended east to Brighton, west to Darlington, Clarke and Manvers townships and north to Keene, Asphodel and Otonabee Townships. Fervent in his faith, he constantly traveled his circuit attracting converts. Over the next decade, largely through his personal appeal, Hayden amassed a solid congregation that grew into an important institution and thus founded a church that would be important in the town until 1929.



This is the area for which William Hayden was responsible.



Congregational Church - King Street West

In 1844 the Haydens moved to Cold Springs where he established another Church. When his health failed and he could no longer stand, he preached from a chair. He was forced to retire in 1864 and died the following year.

Jane Kersop Hayden (1796-1879) was an able partner for her husband. Confirmed into the Congregational church when she was 14, she established a Sunday School in Cobourg, the first of its kind in the area, and was the "life and soul of the school."

Two of the Haydens' children lived in Cobourg. Margaret married James Crossen, founder of the Crossen Carworks, one of the largest manufacturers in the town's history. John Hayden was a leading merchant. He married Eliza, daughter of Thomas Dumble, considered the town's richest citizen when he died. Members of their family continued to live in Cobourg until the 1980s.