

THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
KING EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH

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The congregation of this church first held meetings in the Proctor school for many years. In 1850 they bought one acre of land from Thomas Ramsden for 17 pounds - 10 shillings. The original trustees were Martin Bogart, William Hilborn and John Tatton. The original church building stood parallel with the road, running north and south with the entrance to the south. Many years later it was put on a new foundation and the building set east and west with a vestibule entry built at the east end.

On December 17th, 1931, the trustees then in office, namely, Ephriam Clarkson, Isaac Webster and Frederick A. Bogart conveyed the land to Elwood Barradell, who acted as a trustee in the transaction, and the congregation brought the church under the Baptist denomination in the name of "King Emmanuel Baptist Church" under the pastorate of Rev. B. Herdy. The first trustees under this new arrangement were Ephriam Clarkson, Carl Chalmers Black, and Harry Dales Webster.

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King Christian Church was one of the early religious sects formed in the new settlement of King around the fifth concession and derived most of its officers and congregation from the immediate neighbourhood. They were very fortunate to be sponsored by such families as Hilborns, Bogarts, Tattons, Dales, Websters, Barradells, Terrys, Ramsdens, Boadwins, Chappells and many more worthy families. As the years went by their descendents took up the work and carried on with such newcomers as the Bakers, Wilsons, Rogers, Mounts and Clarksons taking important places.

One of their beliefs, while not compulsory, was baptism by immersion. After a series of revival meetings, usually held during the winter, the ordinance of baptism would take place in Kettleby creek where it flowed through Mr. George Blackburn's farm. This service attracted a large gathering of people.

The ministers serving this church were called "Elders". This congregation was served by Elders Shoults, Hainer, Willoughby, Tatton, Percy, Garbutt, Chidley, Prosser and many others, while being connected with the Newmarket Church. The writer has in his possession a motion passed at a church meeting dated April 9th, 1888:- "Moved by Bro. John Barradell, seconded by Bro. William Rogers, we engage Elder Chidley for another year at the same salary, namely, \$400.00. Carried unanimously."

The social activities of this church were many some years ago. Starting with what was called "Grove Meetings" in the Ramsden orchard adjoining the church, which were usually held the first Sunday in July at 11:00 A.M. and 7:30 P.M. with a guest speaker. These meetings attracted large numbers of people and proved very popular. The same week a strawberry festival would be held. The fame of this festival travelled far and wide and as many as 600 people have been served a supper. This annual event was usually enlivened by a brass band.

In October the church shed would be boarded in, cook stoves installed and a truly appetizing fowl supper served to a great number of people.

These were the days when the church was flourishing and the usual congregation was sufficient to fill the church. They were always fortunate to have a splendid choir, who were capable of bringing honor to themselves as well as their church.

In earlier years what was called "Monthly Meetings" were held the last Saturday of each month when the older members would come for an hour of fellowship, prayer and testimony.

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The first wedding ever held in this century old building was that of Lela Webster and Stanley Barradell on March 22nd, 1922. The second wedding was that of their daughter, Sarah Barradell and James Patton on September 19th, 1959. As far as can be ascertained these two weddings are the only ones to be solemnized within its walls.

And now as a final item, the two acre property was derived from William Mason who owned the south farm and Thomas Ramsden who owned the north farm, the church being built parallel with the road, half on each farm. The story is told of differences arising between the two gentlemen in later years and when Mr. Mason attended church he seated himself just inside the entrance so as not to sit on what had been the Ramsden property.

Compiled by J. Frank Curtis.

In the early days a beautiful burying ground to the west of the church was maintained. Martin Bogart - born 1766 and who died July 21, 1812, age 86, was one of the oldest graves. The first interment in this burying ground was that of Rachel Tatton (nee Rachel Walton) wife of John Tatton in the year 1851. She died during the construction of the church and her coffin was made by the carpenters of the church building. Her son, Elder Jesse Tatton, who is buried at Brougham, Ontario, was a distinguished preacher of the Christian sect. For many years the grave digging was done by John T. Curtis for the sum of \$2.00, and this small amount was sometimes never paid.