

---

The village was originally called "Howville," after Mr. William Howe, who came from Kent, England, and who was among the earliest settlers.

Later the village was named after a Mr. Hill, and Hillsburg it has remained to the present time.

It would be of great interest if we could outline the story of the people of various denominations who worshipped in the Union Church, who were able to unite in the work of the Sabbath school, while they remained true to the convictions which they held as to their own peculiar views of religion.

It would be very pleasing if we could record the splendid service rendered to religion and morality around Hillsburg, by Disciples, Baptists, Methodists and Anglicans, but our history has only to do with the people called "Presbyterian."

In 1840 the Rev. John McMurphy came to Canada from Scotland, and in due course came to visit his relatives who had accompanied him and who had settled near Hillsburg. Mr. McMurphy was pastor at West Gwillimbury, and then became minister at Eldon, in the County of Victoria. His services were so eminent that he was elected Moderator of the Synod which met in Montreal in 1859.



REV. JOHN MCMURPHY.

The Gaelic speaking people in Ontario were the objects of Mr. McMurphy's solicitude, and he gave himself to provide them with the ministry of the Word in their own tongue.

From time to time Mr. McMurphy came to Hillsburg and conducted divine service and dispensed the Lord's Supper to the people of the Presbyterian faith.

At the Synod in Montreal, when the Home Mission Report was presented, we can imagine the Moderator thinking of his own kith and kin and the other Presbyterians in Hillsburg, as "sheep without a shepherd."

In the year of John McMurphy's moderatorship, in the spring of 1860, the Synod of the Canada Presbyterian Church, in connection with the Church of Scotland, sent to Hillsburg John