

Local Schools

May 7, 1873 - Councillor Michael Hunsburger Deputy Reeve, Milton L. Bell. Edwin Gray, George W. Best and Daniel Freeman Reeve, Moved by M. Hunsburger and seconded by M.L. Bell that

Bylaw 304 for the purpose of raising money to erect a School House in S.S. #18 Bayham to be read for the first time. Bell and Gray for the second and Gray, and Bell, third and finally passed.

Aug. 23, 1873 - collecting township rate for building S.S. # 18 - James Morrison \$100.00 salary to collect township and building rate for # 18.

(This would be for the two storey yellow brick school house that was used from 1874 and until after the second war and then used as a community hall for a number of years before being torn down and replaced with the new four room school on one level. The pupils were bussed to Straffordville Public School in the meantime.)

Aug. 23, 1873

Note: Nov. 9, 1874 - committee to let job of filling the gulley east of Eden near the Baptist Church.

Nov. 5, 1877

W.H. Gilbert collector for **S.S. # 18** - \$8.28

Jan. 13, 1879 - James Ford - collector of school rates for S.S. # 18 by law removing said parties from S.S. # 18 to unite them to # 18 finally passed Mar. 26, 1879.

Jan. 11, 1881

That clerk prepare bylaw to change the name and property of Levi J. Hatch from S.S. # 23 and be added to S.S. # 18 that said Clerk notify Trustees of S. S. # 18 of proposed by law.

Feb. 14, 1881 - alteration of boundaries be refered to the Minister of Education.



Early Days in Bayham by Mrs. Mary Bothwell, sister of Josiah Livingstone
of S. Norwich, Tillsonburg paper issue Oct. 28, 1898

and also of Samuel Livingstone of Bayham - now 75 years old
living in Aylmer.

part of it copied.

The northern part of Bayham township was settled between 1819-1824.
Amongst the first settlers were: Andrew and George Dobbie, James, John and
William Crossett, Daniel and Finlay Malcolm, Joshua Brown, Seled Haley, James
Bentley, George Best, and a few years later Samuel Livingstone and his two
sons : John and Sam ages 12 and 14.
Also Joseph Crossett & Chancey Smith.

The first school was built as early as 1823, halfway between Conc. 10 and 11
on the back of a deep gully. The children were guided to school by two blazed
paths, one from the north and the other from the south (North Bayham school)
This school was built of logs and roofed with shingles about 7 or 8" wide and
between 2' to 3' long, split out of blocks but not shaved. The flooring was
the same, only the boards or slabs were longer and wider than the shingles.
The chimney was of sticks, plastered inside with clay. The hearth was made of
clay worked and packed together so closely it was smooth when dry.

The first teacher was Mr. William Crossett, who with his venerable mother was
amongst the first settlers. She was a native of England and remembered John
Wesley laying his hands on her head when she was a child. His successors
teaching were Hugh Mulholland, Mrs. Coños, and Augustus Hewitt.

A new school was built in 1833 or 1834 on the edge of the Forge road where
the road crosses the gully upon which the first school stood. It also was
built of logs but an improvement on the first. The windows were larger and
more of them. The chimney and hearth were of brick and the roof was covered
with modern shingles. The floor and desks were of sawed lumber and the seats
were of bass wood logs with the bark taken off so as to flatten them on the
desired side and in each end there were two large holes bored into which
strong stiches were driven - constituting the supports of the benches. The
teacher's desk was a cross-legged table.

The first teacher was Isaac Tilson, cousin of E.D. Tilson. Then Miss Dewey
and Mr. William Goodrich who later married. Other teachers were Margaret
Livingstone, daughter of Samuel Jr., Mr. Mulholland, Holst Hewitt, Mr. Ketch-
abaw, Mr. Boyd, J.W. Kerr, who had been educated in Dublin.

About 1843 a frame school house was built on the site of the present school.
The teachers here: E.D. Tilson, a graduate of Oberlin College, Sarah J. and
Mary A. Livingstone and Abigail Bentley, daughter of James.

This school was burned and replaced by one on the opposite side of the road
which was superceeded by the present one.

Before the Board of Education was established, the township Superintendents
who examined the teachers gave them their certificates to teach. For a
number of years this office was held by William Veitch of Richmond and after-
wards by Rev. FB Reid, Anglican minister of Port Burwell. Mr. Crossett
brought in the Baptist ministers. Then the Methodists came.

List of names of students at the turn of the century
at S.S. # 18 Bayham public school
who may be in the photograph opposite.

1898
V Myrtle Wilson
SrMary Barrett
Harry Dean
Lulu Stilwell

V
Jr.Milton Patton
Bertie Dean
Morley Harp
Carrie Scidmore
Hattie Craven
Ida Chandler

IV Ina Jones
Laura Spencer
Norma Soper
Fred Burwell
Wilson Burwell
Arthur Bennett
Walter McDowell
Kate Sivyer
Lucy Hunt

III Eddie Wilson
Chas. Kennedy
Jessie Kennedy
Lloyd Healy
Ada Leach
Marie Hunt
Flossie Bentley
Edith Kilmer

III Lou Parney
Jr. Diantha Kennedy
Gertie Eichenberg
Mabel Craven
Violet Bennett
Clarence Jones
Pearl Millard
Arthur Harris
Ira Soper
Myrtle Scidmore
Orliff Phelps

1898
V Mabel Meadows
D. Healy
F. Barrett
M. Wilson
Lulu Stilwell
Harry Dean
Charlie Davies
Henry Stilwell
Milton Patton
Carrie Scidmore
Bertie Dean
Hattie Craven
Clarence Eichenberg
I. Chandler
Morley Harp

IV
Lucy Hunt
Kate Sivyer
I. Kennedy
Ina Jones
Alex Chandler
John Viggars
James Bentley
Charles Burwell
Merritt Burwell

1898
IV Arthur Bennett
F. Burwell
W. Burwell
N. Soper
W. McDowell

III
Mabel Inman
Clarence Inman
Edgar Wilson
Chas. Kennedy
Lloyd Healy
Ada Leach
Marie Hunt
Obadiah Craven
Flossie Bentley
A. Meadows
A. Stilwell

IV
Laura Spencer
Edith Kilmer
Mabel Kennedy
Ida Dean

III
Ira Soper
Diantha Kennedy
Gertie Eichenberg
Mabel Craven
Violet Bennett
Clarence Jones
Pearl Millard
Arthur Harris
Myrtle Scidmore
Orliff Phelps

II
Beatrice Bentley
Nora Leach
James French
George Thomas
Mary Bradshaw
Ira Boughner
Viola Dean
Harry Jones
Rachel Stilwell
Gertie Simes
Ed Sivyer
Carrie Allemand
Martin Ryan
Mabel Patton
Harry French
Winnie Sinden
Vivian Harris
Claude Wilson
Aggie Millard
Flossie Spencer

II
Edna Allemand
Sanford Haines
Amy Chandler
Hattie French
Murray Haines
Peter Burwell
Louis Howell
Blanche French
Pearl Alton
Edith Simes
Nell Sivyer
Ruby Phelps
Harry Howey
Olive Kennedy
Will Cuthbert

1898
II Earl Harp
Lulu Chandler
Harry Everett

I
Asa Fishback
Stanley Backhouse
Arthur Allemand
Eva Fishback
Zora Millard
Leila Wilson
Lorne Alton
Frank Eichenberg
Clarence Inman
James French
Ivan Cuthbert
Guy Clarke
Sylvia Chandler

1899 extra names
Jr.V Louis Garnham
IV Lucie Hunt
Nelson Leach

III
Jr. Nora Leach
Beatrice Bentley
Viola Dean
Ed Sivyer
Rachel Stilwell
George Nevilles

II
Winnie Sinden
Aggie Millard
Harry French
George Thomas
Roy Fleming

1900
V John Ross
IV Eva Scanlan
IV Fanny Scanlan
Jr. Lulu Stilwell
V Cora Fenn
III Ayrest Stilwell
IV Pearl Alton
III Ruby Phelps
Winnie Sinden
Willie Cuthbert
Earl Harp
Harry French
Harry Jones
Harry Everett

V
Nellie Weaver
III Ernest Scanlan



TURN OF THE CENTURY SCHOOL PHOTO
LOANED FOR COPY BY DAUGHTER OF
AGNES HERLY
FORMER TEACHER - 1898-1899
73 STUDENTS

c 1920 - SS#18 BAYHAM



c. 1920 SS#18 BAYHAM

L. TO R.

BACK

- MISS ETTA HERRON
- PAUL TRAVIS
- WILFRED BEAMAN
- MCK KENNEDY
- ALFRED GORVETT
- IOLA WILSON
- KATIE WILSON
- OPAL WILSON
- FAITH WILSON
- MADELINE BROWN
- ALICE WILLIAMS
- RUBY KENNEDY
- THOMAS BERRY
- EMERY LILLY
- DWIGHT MOODY
- GUY MCKIE

3RD

- WINNIE ECKERT
- LITA KENNEDY
- CATHARINE McDOWELL
- ERIE KENNEDY
- STAN CORNWALL
- RALPH HOUGH
- ROY BROWN
- GOODSELL WILSON
- EZRA McDOWELL
- DALTON FRENCH
- GERALD HUDSON
- MILDRED KETCHABAW
- MABEL WILLIAMS
- ALICE FRENCH
- GLADYS KENNEDY
- MISS CLARA PECK

2ND

- HARLEY KENNEDY
- BERT CORNWALL
- EARL ECKERT
- HOUGH
- RAY ROLOSON
- STELLA KENNEDY
- EVA McDOWELL
- BETTY FENIMORE
- CATHERINE JONES
- AUDREY BROWN
- RAY MOND SILVER
- MERVIN KENNEDY
- ECKERT
- PETER TRAVIS
- LEE KENNEDY

FRONT

- HARRY BEAMAN
- ROY KETCHABAW
- BILL FENIMORE
- IRVIN WILSON
- MINNIE ECKERT
- RHEA WILSON
- MINA WILSON
- WINNIFRED KETCHABAW
- MARIE MADILL
- VERA WHITE
- OLIVE BUNT
- VIVIAN WILSON
- HAZEL BROWN
- HOUGH
- ARCHIE SCIDMORE
- LEW KETCHABAW

A
HISTORY OF SCHOOLS
IN
BAYHAM TOWNSHIP TO 1900

by
Hugh R. S. Garnham
London, Ontario.

An Essay Submitted in
Conformity with the
Requirements of the Unit 102 for
Dr. G. E. Tate in the
University of Toronto
October, 1961.

*Thanks for the help.
H.R. Garnham.*

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The story of Bayham Township began in 1810 with Mahlon Burwell, Deputy Surveyor, ordered to survey the vacant tract of land between the Townships of Houghton and Yarmouth and "to divide it if sufficiently extensive, into two townships.... under the names of Malahide and Bayham." ¹

Bayham Township has an interesting background in English history deriving its name from an old country land owner. Near Frant, in Kent, are the ruins of Begeham, or Bayham Abbey, one of the earliest foundations for Monks. It was erected in 1200 and flourished until Cardinal Wolsey took the revenues for his colleges. In later years it came into the possession of the Marquis Camden, who took from it the titles of Viscount Bayham. ²

About the year 1812, the first settlers in Bayham made their appearance. Joseph De Fields and James Gibbons, built their log habitations on Talbot Street between the two Otter Creeks near the present village of Richmond. Talbot Street, then a blazed path through the woods, had been laid out by Mahlon Burwell in 1809.

Then five years later, in 1817 Samuel Howie, spelled Howey today, arrived from Niagara where his wife was staying with friends. He received a grant of land from Colonel Talbot a mile north of Straffordville and a few rods east of the Plank Road on the way to Eden. "For several weeks

1. Otter Creek Conservation Report, p.14.
2. London Free Press clipping by Eddie Simons, date unknown.

while building the cabin, his lodging place was under a pine root where he extemporised a bed of pine shavings. He slept soundly, although there were many wolves and bears in the region".³ After establishing his home and realizing the importance of education for his five sons, he helped in 1830 to provide the first school in the neighbourhood.

This, however, was not the first school in Bayham Township. The village of Vienna "romantically situated in the valley of the Otter, sheltered on three sides by sloping hills,"⁴ owed its early growth to the commercial value of the pine forests that grew along the banks of the Big Otter River. J. George Hodgins states that:

"A History of Vienna would be incomplete without this reference to her Schools. The Town is situated on the Big Otter Creek, three miles north of Port Burwell.... Its settlement dates back to 1818, when a Common School was in operation there, but it was not until 1831 that a Log School House was built. This was situated in the north side of the Plank Road, on the east bank of the Creek. It was taught by a Mr. Brooks. The various Religious Denominations held Religious services in that School House, before any churches were built. As the Village increased in size and population it became necessary to put up a large School House, which was accordingly done, the Building being situated on the west side of Main Street."⁵

This substantial school was wrected in 1843 according to Mr. J. Thomas Gamble, Secretary of the School Board.⁶ A tax of fifty pounds currency had been levied by the Bayham

3. Historical Atlas of Elgin County, p.6.

4. Ibid., p.7

5. J. George Hodgins, The Establishment of Schools and Colleges in Ontario 1792-1910, Vol. II, p.6

6. J. George Hodgins, Documentary History of Education in Upper Canada (Ontario) 1743-1845, p.283

Township Council at the meeting of February 9, 1852 "for the purpose of purchasing a site and building a School House in School Section No. 4."⁷

"In 1842, Dr. Bolton Reade was rector of the churches of Vienna and Port Burwell. He saw the need of a Grammar School; recognized the conditions under which pupils could attend school; realized the need for such attendance, and became one of the originators of the new movement - the establishment of a Grammar School at Vienna."⁸

In the forties, Vienna was in the zenith of her power, a busy trading centre. Dr. Reade's efforts were justified and subsequently realized. The Vienna Grammar School came into existence in the year 1846. It was the third Grammar School to be established in Upper Canada.

"The work of the school was begun in a room in a private house."⁹ It is interesting to note that this was the home of the school master and that the rent was paid by the Township Council. "Moved by Mr. Burwell, seconded by Wm. Skinner that the sum of twelve pounds ten shillings be allowed to Simon Newcombe for our School School (sic) Teacher as rent for School House furnished by him, and that the same be paid him as soon as their (sic) is money that can be appropriated to that purpose."¹⁰

"The first master was Mr. Newcombe, a classical scholar, and the pupils numbered thirty young men. Of young women, a number attended,

7. Bayham Township Minute Book, 1850-59, Feb.9, 1852

8. J. George Hodgins, The Establishment of Schools and Colleges in Ontario 1792-1910, p.4.

9. Ibid.

10. Bayham Township Minute Book, Dec.23, 1851.