

BELMONT PUBLIC SCHOOL HISTORY
KNOWN AS S.S. 11 SOUTH DORCHESTER

The first school recorded in 1845 was in the house owned by W. H. Soole, at the present time occupied by Mrs. Claude Farquhar, 1971.

The first school house in 1846 was on the street between Wm. Dyer and W. T. Nugent, (that is north of the old Post Office, owned by the late Harold Archer and it was formerly the Old Cramer House.)

Belmont's second school was at the corner of Union and College Streets (where the late Mr. Milton Hambly resided). It was then a house and a barn and was among the first and second good schools in the District. The barn was the first building, and what is today the house was added on afterward. It was "L" shaped with an ante-room in the angle. To the north side was a woodshed; to the south a board fence; and to the west a row of posts. Pupils were compelled to always stay within the grounds during the school day.

The seats, remnants of the old school, in Room one of the new school, were still used in 1937. More recently they were replaced by new ones. Some of the older ones were chairs on iron legs. The teachers' desks were merely tables and the rooms were heated with wood stoves. Over sixty pupils were enrolled in the Senior Room. One of the first teachers was J. H. Smith, Ex-Inspector of South Kent. There were two first classes, six or seven seconds and usually an entrance class of about fifteen. The entrance examinations were written twice a year.

In 1887 a fine new three room brick school was built across the street. The basement held a wood furnace which added comfort to the pupils and teachers.

In 1915 the new addition of room three downstairs and an added room above was built. Many more pupils were now attending.

Several prominent men and women received their education within these walls. The new building had installed steam heat, a water system, and electricity in 1945. Also in 1945 the intermediate room was re-opened owing to increased enrolment. A new stoker, boiler and condensation pump was installed in 1946.

In 1937 the Continuation School had an excellent laboratory and apparatus for student science and research. This room was later, around 1958, turned into a much needed Kindergarten.

For many years the new school housed both Public and Continuation Schools, but the latter was closed in 1950. Before the school was closed in June, 1969, the entire building was a public school with a staff of seven teachers.

At the time of valuation of the school and property and equipment in 1919, four years after the new addition was completed, the following was the evaluation - School grounds \$1,000; Buildings \$12,000; Science, Library, Maps, Charts, Art Models, Biological Equipment, pictures, etc. \$1,078.86 (furniture not included).

In 1928 the first musical training was given to the Continuation and Public School by Miss Inez (Barons) Smith.

The Belmont Continuation Literary Society was formed soon after the Continuation School opened in 1915, and looked after and organized the Social and Athletic recreations for the whole school.

Plays, booths, Oratorical Contests, membership fees, donations and concerts paid the expenses for membership pins, pictures for the school, supplies for parties, baseball, foot-ball, basket-ball and tennis equipment.

On October 12th, 1925, a meeting was held to organize an Athletic Club. Beatrice Harkness, being appointed as convenor of the committee, Margaret (Monnie) Buchanan as secretary. As a result organized basket ball and tennis matches were arranged.



In 1930 soft ball equipment was purchased and a team formed which partook in many tournaments and league games.

In 1934 Field Day activities were organized and participated in by several schools.

Many nostalgic memories are connected with the dear old school which was sold and torn down in October and November, 1969. The Village of Belmont offered to purchase the unused Belmont Public School for \$1, but the Board refused the offer but passed a resolution stating that the school would be torn down and the land leased to the Village at the fee of \$1 per year. Meanwhile the land is to be retained by the Board as a possible school site.

In a letter to the Board on September 5th, 1969, Belmont Clerk-Treasurer, W.O. Barons said it was of great concern to the Village that if the property was sold to "private enterprize", it might result in undesirable use. This has been publicly owned property for the past 80 years, the letter said, and is the Councils desire for it to remain so.

Some of the Secretary Treasurers were John Cousins, John Dawes, John Ferguson, O. F. Sexsmith and Ed Coventry.

The first records of teachers were found in 1845. Many were lost between 1845 - 1909 to 1915 when the first pupils records were found.

Mrs. Norman Taylor - Curator
of the Belmont Institute Tweedsmuir Book

Teachers Names and Dates Recorded

Teachers 1845

Dan Gillis
Christina Atkins
Omie Dyer
Solomon Smith
D. Danard
D. W. Lockhart
Miss Walker

1856 +

Joseph Patts Sr.
W. W. Campbell
Doug McBrayne
Colin McArthur
Archie McMillan
L. Fleckenstien
Norman McDonald
Jas. Smith
J. D. Lewis
S. Baker
Carlton Luton
John Empey
W. R. Manning
Miss McLean
J. W. McRoberts
E. Wyatt
Miss F. Webster
Miss Mary McCord
"Records Lost Here"

Margaret McKenzie 1909
Jennie McGregor 1909
Ethel McGregor 1909
D. H. McGill 1909
Janet Cairncross 1910
Irene Stevenson 1910
Ella Cline 1911
Ida Wood 1911
J. H. Joynt 1911
May Darch 1911
Margaret Soole (Sub) 1911
Jean Harkness 1911
H. R. Henderson 1912
Alex Betterley 1912
Ruby Lang 1912
Ed Ward 1912
Miss Smith 1913
Isabel Mitten 1913
Alenna Campbell 1913
O. McKillop 1913
Miss Mott 1914
Miss Dicks 1915
Hazel Venning 1915
Miss Axford 1915
May Falkins 1916
Mrs. Mary Moore 1917
Margaret McGill 1917
Anna Cowen 1917
Etta Fitchett 1918
Anna Hare 1918
Kathleen Moore 1918
N. Gilbert 1919

John McLellan 1919
Freda Leathorn 1921
Eva Taylor 1921
I. M. Rychman 1921
Mary Strathdee 1922
Mary Manley 1922
Irene Moore 1922
Ray Underhill 1923
Myrtle Barons 1923
Mr. Archibald 1923
Miss Bernice Monck (Sub) 1923
Miss Ruddick (Sub) 1923
Miss D. K. Price 1924
W. A. McLean 1924
Dorothy Parsons 1924
Kathleen Saxton 1925
W. Hagerty 1925
Clytia Francis 1925
Miss McKewan 1925
Miss M. L. Charlton 1926
J. M. Thompson 1926
A. G. McColl 1926
Miss H. Caughell 1927
J. H. Berst 1928
Catherine Duncanson 1928
B. C. Shewan 1928
Nellie Jackson 1929
Retha Oatman 1930
Carolyn Monck 1931
Evelyn Freeman 1932
Evelyn Poole 1932
J. A. Bolton 1930
Grace Fuller 1931
Winnifred Miller 1932
George Dodd 1934
Margaret Richard 1934
George Currie 1934
Winnifred Randall 1933
Ruby E. Wintermute 1935
John F. McColl 1935
Mary Buchanan 1936
Elda Horton 1935
Gertrude Lambert 1937
H. E. Pratt 1939
Harry Boyd 1937
Miss D. Benner 1940
M. T. McCall 1940
John Lewis 1940
Gladys Robson 1941
Eileen Evans 1942
Margaret Wilton 1942
Eva Verner 1943
George E. Tilden 1944
Evangeline Lanowe 1944
Gordon Waldie 1944
Alvin Pauli 1945
Betty Pincombe 1945
M. D. Laithwaite 1945
B. M. Woolley 1945
Audrey Powe 1945
Kenneth Armstrong 1946
Lucy Thompson 1946
Doris Prouse 1947
A. G. McDonald 1947
Marion Husson 1947