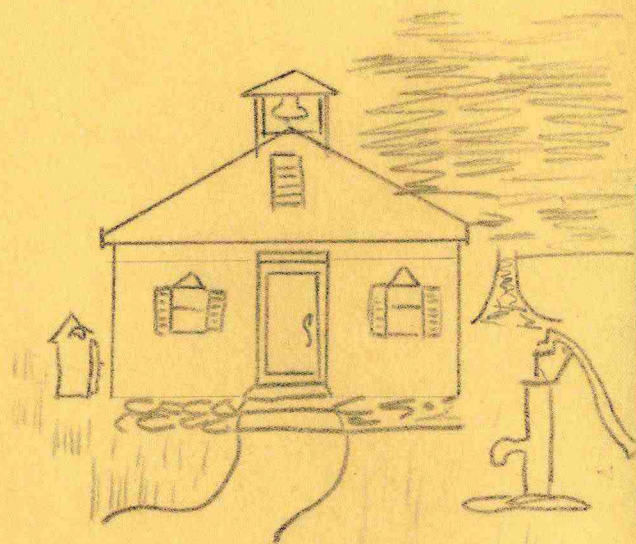


C.Y.W.I.

SCHOOL. HISTORY



OUR SCHOOLS

-by Mrs. Angus (Clara) McKenzie

The first school in Elgin County was built at Orwell, near Rogers' Corners in 1816. It was used on the Sabbath as a Baptist meeting house with Deacons Davis and Teeple generally in charge.

The first schools were roughly built, cold, dark and dismal, usually with only two windows containing six panes, seven by nine, in each. The seats and desks were logs flattened by axes and adds.

School taxes or fees as they were known in this early period were ten bushels of wheat per year. The parents gave the schoolmaster another bushel of grain for a spelling book and a quire of paper. In 1840 about five schools in each township were in operation -- all log structures.

The first school in the Central Yarmouth district was built on the farm of Jonathan Martin about half way between the sixth and seventh concessions. At that time the master travelled from school to school on horseback, boarding with neighbours and teaching for a short period in each place.

Sunday School was held in this little log structure and preaching service, when a travelling parson came this way. Andrew Mills in his 90th year at time of writing remembers attending Sunday School with his grandparents in this building before it was raised about 1871.

In March of 1855, a splendid new brick structure was built on Talbot Street, west of Yarmouth Centre with Mr. John Marlatt, chairman, Daniel W. Newcombe, secretary, Thomas Hawley, Moses Hughes, William Doan, William Brower, and Ensley Couse and William Heydon as a building committee. It was stated in the minutes after much discussion that the school be built of white brick on the south side of the road and be free for public worship at all times.

Our Schools

Not until 1906 was a school site drafted on Concession 6, two miles south of Yarmouth Centre known as School Section No. 12.

Organization of a Trustee Board for S. S. No. 12 was held on the 15th day of August, 1906. Meeting was called to order by W. C. Caughell, Township Clerk. Moved and supported that George Russell be chairman. The trustees were elected in the order named, John Maynard, R. B. Mills, John Shepard with George Russell as secretary.

The ratepayers held a special meeting on January 28, 1907, to select a school site. The Penhale site was chosen for the new schoolhouse. An acre of land was purchased on the southwest corner of Lot 15, Concession 7, in the Township of Yarmouth. A white brick school with full basement and furnace was built that year. Mr. George Ponsford of St. Thomas was the contractor.

The school opened in September with Miss Amy McGugan as teacher.

This school was burned on March 2, 1915. The present school--a red brick with full basement and furnace was built that year, reopening for classes in September. Harry Smale of Sparta had the contract for the mason work, Richard Sanders the contract for carpentry, James Stewart the plastering and C. E. Loomis, painting and glazing.

While the school was being built, Miss Norma Rooney taught the children in a vacant house, the property of the McKenzie Bros.--a mile west of the school grounds.

The capable teachers engaged in S. S. No. 12, Yarmouth, since its inauguration in 1907 are as follows: Amy McGugan, (Mrs. Baker); Stella Axford; Myrtle Paddon; Leola Williams, (Mrs. Denniss); Norma Rooney, (1915, Mrs. Miller); Ina Gilbert, (1916, Mrs. Gloin); Harriett Hansley, (Mrs. Fife); Georgina Martin, (Mrs. Gorvett); Enabelle Campbell; Mary Bradt, (Mrs. Ackert); Bessie Dancey, (Mrs. Walters, Cook);

Our Schools

Jean Richardson, (Mrs. Gillespie); Beulah Small, (Mrs. Helkaa); May Fitch, (Mrs. Hull); Madeline McCormack, (Mrs. McLaughlin); Helen Gloin, (Mrs. Harris); Dorothy Kilpatrick, (Mrs. Cline, supply); Beatrice Turnbull, (Mrs. Patrick); Grace Hathaway, (Mrs. Teeple); Clifford Brown, (1940); Elizabeth Spry, (Mrs. Hubbard); Laura Pearl Campbell, (Mrs. Flowers); Jean Wesleyson, (1945, Mrs. Sudlow); Margaret McIntyre; Jean Cook, (1948, Mrs. McLeod); Nola Mitchell, (Mrs. Stormes); Mrs. Winnifred Faulkner; Mrs. Satchell, (supply); Ethel Agar; Mrs. Joyce Matthews; Mrs. Hazel Trickett; Mrs. Lois Heidt; Mrs. Lois Paddon; Mrs. Marjorie Watson, (1968).