

NUMBER NINE SCHOOL

Today we all remember
How in the years gone by,
In June or mild September
With wild geese sailing high -

We hurried here to work and play
In weather fair or fine,
And did not want to miss a day
Of school at number nine.

Of virgin logs it first was made
Way back in fifty five,
Foundations of that school were laid
By those not now alive.

Then in more properous times
They built the present one,
Where children learned their sums and rhymes
And played out in the sun.

It sheltered many a happy band
As years went rolling by
Who day by day their lessons scanned
Even as you and I.

And there were many who found fame,
We think of them with pride,
For true and lofty was their aim
When they did here abide.

But now alas the time has come
When we must close the book,
For modern ways are seen and done
Where ever you may look.

The winds of change have closed our school,
The children no more roam
By clover fields in mornings cool,
Or frolic going home.

They're taken to a modern school
Where all is strange and new,
And there by scientific rule
Are taught the things to do.

But we will cherish memories fond
Of days that time endears,
As this small schoolhouse brings to mind
The friends of other years -

Until we join that well loved band
Who long have gone before,
To follow Him who in His hand
Still holds the open door.

Maude McWilliam

July 2nd, 1966.

S.S.# 8 Dunwich and 20 Southwold School.

In the year 1833 Mr. and Mrs. Neil McBride came to Canada from Scotland and settled on the Dunwich-Southwold Townline on the farm now occupied by Gordon Little. Their oldest child was born on the sail boat that was carrying them across the ocean.

They built their first house shortly after arriving. In the early times the settlers had to be satisfied with cabins in the wilderness or log cabins in a small clearing. They were usually content and happy, although a great many risks were encountered, with many wild animals roaming the woods.

A few years after their arrival a log school was erected on the McBride farm, a little south of Gordon Little's house. The first school in Dunwich was built in 1823 near the Lake where the settlers first landed.

School priviledges were few and meagre for the early settlers. The building was built of logs with a huge open fireplace on one end. The seats were made from slabs split from basswood logs, smoothed some with an axe and pegs put in for legs. In 1847 school expenses were \$650.

The school population soon grew too large and since the community was becoming more densely populated a new school was built in 1860 on the Catherine McBride farm now occupied by Preston McBride, a grandson of the first owner. It was a frame building and quite large, however it was enlarged in 1879.

The teachers usually boarded among the pupils and did not receive a high wage and were probably not too thorough in their teaching. Possibly the average wage was around \$200 per year. However many an honest fellow came out of it! Mrs. McBride received \$3 rent for the school on her property.

All sorts of meetings were held in the schoolhouse from dances, singing school, entertainments of all kinds, political meetings once weekly prayer meetings and the Grange meetings. However singing school and dances were the most popular.

In 1865 it was moved by Neil McBride, seconded by Angus Campbell, that every child attending the school should provide a quarter cord of wood to fit the stove, every child neglecting to do so, be fined \$1. Vote carried.

A Dominion Granger or Patrons of Husbandry was started in the community about 1875. Its number was 255 and local name was "Rose of the West". Mr. David Crosson, Mr. Colin Campbell, and Mr. Robert Plain were very interested in it. Supplies came by train to the Thames siding. Many would walk to Mr. Plain's for their supplies, especially if they were short on tea as the Scotch could not get along without their cup of tea.

In 1890 the section decided it needed a more modern school, as the section was growing in population as nearly 80 youngsters were of school age. The trustees, Alex McCallum, Thomas Ibbitson, and John McBride decided to move the school to its present site on the Townline. Thomas Ibbitson owned the farm then, while today it is owned by Jack and Duncan McNabb. Mr. Ibbitson paid \$40 for the old school and moved it to his farm for a driveshed. Mr. Ibbitson was paid \$100 for the land which had to have a good rail fence around it. A fine large brick building was erected in 1892. This was a union school and there was much strife among the students, especially in games of baseball and snowball.

On March 5, 1920 the brick school burned and the present school was erected the same year on the same site.

Trustees in 1892 were Alex McCallum, Thomas Ibbitson, and John McBride. In 1920 they were Thomas McCallum, John Patterson, and Alex Kindree. In 1947 they were Gordon Agar, Duncan McNabb, and Mac E. Carroll. In 1952 they were Jack Evans, Alfred Vine, and Walter Gosnell.

Teachers:

- 1862 Robert March, salary 301.17
- 1866 Duncan K Leitch, salary \$201.50
- 1867 Nancy McLachlin
- 1868 Alexander Thompson
- 1869-71 James McDougal
- 1872-73 Neil Dewar
- 1874 Alexander McPhail
- 1875- 76 Daniel Coughlin
- 1877-78 Duncan Mc Phail salary \$209
- 1879 William Sutherland
- 1880 John Graham

1881 Maggie Preston
 1882-83 Alexander Forbes
 1884 Kate Cameron
 1885 E.E. Reilly $\frac{1}{2}$ a year; Winnie Carry $\frac{1}{2}$ a year
 1886 John Graham
 1887 Neil Campbell
 1896 James Goldie, salary \$260
 1897 James Goldie, salary \$280
 1901 Janet McMillan \$300 and keep on the fire and do the
 janitor work.

The following have taught since 1900 ;

Sarah McMillan, Sarah Brodie, Rose Metcaf, Lettie Corneil,
 Maggie McNeil, Francis Clunis, Pearl Kestle, Mary McCallum, K. McColl,
 Margaret McLean, Melba Walls, Mary McAllister, Cornelia Thomson,
 Violet Botham, Elizabeth Whitelock, Ida Carruthers, Gretta Sutton,
 Charlotte Showers, Vanda Smith, Jean McCallum, George Dodd,
 Ellen McCallum, Bernice Leggett, Bernice Hurley, Margaret King,
 Dorothy Campbell, Doris Imlay, Helen Duncanson, Yvonne Patterson,
 Dorothy Andrews, Mrs. Blanchflower, Mary McDonald, Mrs. Glover,
 Marilyn Reeves.

Prepared by Mary Clarke.

In 1966 the schools in Elgin County amalgamated and the one
 room schools were closed. Today the Southwold children are bussed
 to Southwold Public School near St. Thomas, on the Fingal Road.
 The Dunwich children are bussed to the Dunwich-Dutton Public
 School in Dutton, from grades 1 to 5 and to West Elgin Senior
 Elementary School in West Lorne for grades 6 - 8.

No. 8 and 20 school was bought by Bryan and Mary Margaret (Agar)
 Kenny and they have remodelled into a home. In 1967 there was
 a school reunion ,after the closing of the school, and many friends
 and former students and teachers returned to join in the celebrations.

Updated in 1983.

COWAL HALL

The following item appeared in the Dutton Advance:

February 10, 1891

People of this village have decided to build a public hall. Subscription lists have been sent out through the neighbourhood and a sufficient amount realized to justify the undertaking. Committee: Dan McPherson, D.R. Thomson, P.C. Mc Bride, John McTavish, A. Murray, Archie Thomson and Joseph Leslie."

The frame building was built where Cowal Church stands today. James Bennett was the head carpenter, assisted by volunteers. On December 24, 1891 a special evening was arranged for the opening of the new hall and the following account from the Dutton Advance gives the details:

"Opening of New Hall at Cowal, December 24, 1891.

If a large crowd, an enjoyable evening, and a healthy addition to the funds are the requisites for a successful tea-meeting, then the young people of Cowal have just cause to be satisfied with the gathering on Friday evening. The occasion was the opening of the new hall which was erected by volunteers and subscriptions *by* a number of residents of that vicinity who have felt the need for such a building. The Hall, which is a credit to the hamlet, is a frame building and will be used as the public may require. The young men were ably assisted by the young ladies, especially at the opening entertainment and had provided an excellent spread in another building. After ample justice had been done to it, the gathering adjourned to the new Hall, which was filled to capacity, so that standing room was at a discount. Dr. Cascaden accepted the chair in his usual successful manner. Addresses were delivered by Rev. T. Wilson, C.R. Gunne, M.A., Dutton, and J.D. McDiarmid. Excellent music was furnished by Misses Ibbitson and McLaughlin, Cowal, and the Saunders Bros., Dutton. Another interesting part of the programme was a contest between the friends of two popular young ladies, Miss Maggie Patton and Miss Agnes Davidson, as to whom should fall the honour of cutting the mammoth cake. Party strife between the bachelors ran high and a large number of 5¢ pieces found their way into the ballot boxes, but it was not intended that the election shall be declared void on that account. When the ballots were counted it was found that Miss Patton was 175 votes in the majority.

The committee consisted of J. McTavish, D. Thomson, and J. Patterson. They are to be congratulated on the success of the tea-meeting, the proceeds being \$94. "

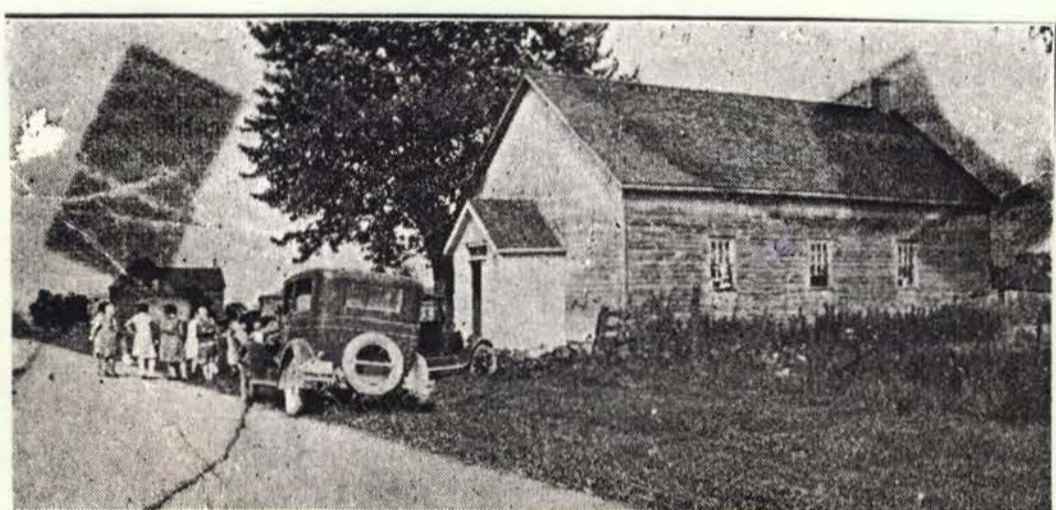
In 1901 the congregation of Chalmers church decided to build a new church on the site of the hall ground, so in the spring of 1902 Daniel Patterson donated the land where the Hall now stands, and the building was moved there. He also bought the old church building and moved it onto the same farm and for many years it was used as a barn.

In 1930 an addition of a stage and basement were made to enlarge the building. The carpenters were J.A. Patterson and David Bennett. The

Hall has been a centre for many parties and dances, with the famous Guy Lombardo playing here when they were just a local band starting out. At a dance a list of songs to be played during the evening was handed out to the men and they asked the girls to sign their names for various waltzes and foxtrots, etc. The men paid 25¢ admission for the ladies but there was no charge for themselves.

During the War years dances were held every month and the proceeds were given to help the war effort. The Women's Institute met once a month in the Hall for many years. They sponsored euchre card parties as well as 500 card parties which were very popular.

During the years the Hall has been used for many activities. Trustees run the affairs of the Hall and in 1983 they are Stan Campbell, Grant Campbell and Sarfy Smith.



Cowal Hall in 1928, as originally built.
It was built in 1891.



Cowal Hall in 1984, with addition at the back which was added in 1930.

Picture taken in 1984.

Programme Fri. Evg. Dec. 31st 1920

- 1. Waltz. Alabama Moon. C.
- 2. Two-Step. Show me how
- 3. Waltz. I'll be with you in Apple Blossom time J.M.
- 4. Two-Step. Hold me M. M. C.
- 5. One-Step. Bells of St Marys J. M. C.
- 6. Waltz. That naughty Walter E. E.
- 7. Two-Step. Feather your nest C.
- 8. Cotillon selected
- 9. Waltz. — like we used to be Miss Dennis
- 10. Two-Step. Rosie M. L.
- 11. Fox-trot. Margie C.
- 12. Waltz. Hiawatha's melody of love Marg. L.
- 13. Two-Step. Tell me little gypsy M. M. C.
- 14. Waltz. On Miami shore C.

Lunch

- 15. Waltz — "Delilah" C.
- 16. Two-Step. The love nest Jna
- 17. Waltz. Trippoli & lady
- 18. Fox-trot. Darling B.
- 19. Waltz. Kiss me again
- 20. Two-Step. Avalon Ethel M. M. C.
- 21. One-Step. When you're a million miles from home M. M. C.
- 22. Waltz. Rio Grande C.
- 23. Two-Step. Fair one Marg. L.
- 24. Waltz. Down the trail to home sweet home, C.
- Two-Step.
- One-Step. My little Bimbo — M. L.
- Waltz. Let the rest of the world go by. C.

Dear Sir: Am sending along programme. Have made a couple of requests hoping it is satisfactory. J. A. Patterson
 Long Sta. R.M.

History of Cowal Post Office

Neil McBride and his wife came from Cowal, Scotland, near Inverary, Scotland in the year 1833, and settled on a farm on the Dunwich and Southwold Townline which is owned by Wood Lynne Farms, being the former Gordon Little farm. Neil McBride opened the first Post Office in his house, calling it Cowal Post Office. He took the mail from Fingal on horse-back, and blew a large horn to let the settlers know the mail was in. The mail was received only once a week on Saturday morning. The post came by stage from St. Thomas and then on to Windsor.

In 1871, Neil McBride gave the Post Office over to Grant Silcox who kept store on the west side of the Townline.

In the year 1875 the Post Office was moved to the four corners known as New Montreal. With the arrival of the Post Office this name was changed to Cowal. The Post Office was kept in the general store and also private homes.

In the late 1890's and up to 1913, individuals had to go to the Post Office in Cowal to pick up their mail. By 1887, mail was being received three times a week and by 1895 it was being received daily. Mail was addressed to Iona Station R.R.#1 via Cowal. Couriers received contracts for carrying the mail from Cowal to Iona Station and back again to Cowal. When in 1913 the Post Office was closed at Cowal, mail was dispatched from Iona Station and was delivered door to door by mail couriers. It was now addressed to Iona Station, R.R.#1. The government did not approve of cars, so the mail had to be delivered by horse and buggy. Letters cost 2 cents to mail.

Mail couriers delivering door to door included Reuben Adams, Auty Ross, Archie McFarlane and Roy Piper who delivered the mail for over 50 years. His son-in-law, William J. Campbell took over from him and is still carrying the mail in 1983. Stamps now cost 32 cents and mail is delivered only five times a week (Saturday and Sunday there is no delivery) which began in 1982.

Items Taken From The Enterprise (until 1889,) then the Dutton Advance.

- 1884 Post Office located in John Battin's store.
- 1884 March People are getting up a petition asking to have Her Majesty's mail delivered tri-weekly.
- August Mr Battin has put in new boxes and had them lettered which adds much to the convenience of the Post Office.
- 1886 April People are still petitioning for tri-weekly mail.
- May 6 John Battin has sold his store.
- May 27 John Thomson has purchased the Post Office Store.
- 1887 January Mr Gilbert McCallum has secured the contract for carrying Her Majesties mail from Iona Station at a salary of \$79.00, his duties beginning April 1, 1887.
- April Mr McCallum has commenced his duties as mail carrier, taking over from Mr. McFarlane. Mail is being delivered three times a week.
- 1889 January John Thomson, merchant, was appointed postmaster as J. Patton resigning.
- 1890 Mrs Janet McCallum has the post office in her home. She is the assisstant postmaster.
- 1895 January 31 There is an effort being made to have a daily mail established.
- August People are excited over the prospect of daily mail beginning around October.
- October 1 Daily mail began.
- 1899 January 19 Mrs Janet McCallum, assistant post mistress had the misfortune to have her house burn to the ground. The post office which was kept in her house is now in the general store kept by John Thomson who will act as the assistant post master in the future. A small amount of mail was lost as well as one registered letter.
- 1906 January 25 John Thomson who is postmaster and general merchant has disposed of his business to Mr Morrison, London and is moving to Leamington.
- 1906 June 1 M. McFarlane was awarded the contract for four years to draw daily mail from Cowal to Iona Station.
- 1906 August 16 The general store and post office of J.A. McGugan burned to the ground as well as a house beside it.
- 1906 The post office was moved to the house of Mrs Jim Bennett(Catherine McCallum, a sister of Peter G. McCallum, better known as "Red Pete".) When the weather was bad she would ride horseback to Iona Station to get the mail.

1909 The contract for carrying mail between Cowal and Iona Station, including rural delivery along the route, has been awarded to Reuben Adams.

1913 On January 15, 1913, Cowal Post Office was closed and mail was now dispatched from Iona Station by couriers travelling up and down each rural road, ending an era of Cowal Post Office.

COWAL POST OFFICE

OPENED - 1863-12-01 CLOSED - 1913-01-15

<u>POSTMASTERS</u>	<u>DATES</u>	<u>LOCATED</u>
Neil McBride	1-12-1863 to 17- 6-1871	Residence
Grant Silcox	1-11-1871 to 1875	Store
Moved to Cowal		
James McDougall	1- 4 1875 to 25-9-1885	Store
John Battin	1- 4-1886 to 2- 2-1887	Store
John Thomson	1-12-1888 to 17- 2-1891	Store
Daniel Thomson	1- 8-1891 to 6-10-1904	Store
John Thomson	1-12-1904 to 1- 3-1906	Store
Jim McGugan	1- 5-1906 to 5- 9-1906	Store
Mrs. Jim Bennett	1-11-1906 to 1-11-1911	Residence
Reuben Adams	17- 3-1911 to 1-15-1913	Residence

MAIL COURIERS

Cowal to Iona Station

Mungo McFarlane	1- 4-1883 to 31-3 - 1887
Gilbert McCallum	1- 4-1887 to 31-3 - 1891
Gilbert McCallum	1- 4-1891 to 31-3 - 1892
Mrs. Janet McCallum	1- 4-1892 to 31-3 - 1895
William Fletcher	1-10-1895 to 30-6 - 1906
Mungo McFarlane	1- 7-1906 to 30-6 - 1910
Reuben Adams	1- 7-1909 to 30-1 - 1913

November 1925

Rural mail carriers will be permitted to spend holidays at their "ain fireside" hereafter. They will cease their labour on New Years Day, Good Friday, Victoria Day, Dominion Day, Labour Day and Thanksgiving Day as well as Christmas Day.

The Cowal - McBride's Cemetery.

The Cowal Cemetery was opened in 1854 on the South East-corner of Lot C, Concession 4, on land donated by John McCallum from the farm on which he lived.

The trustees were John L. McBride, David Crossen, and Peter Duncanson. Peter Duncanson kept the books, which were lost when his house burned. Later trustees were Dan McBride, Dan McCallum, Fred W. Miller, Alex. McLachlin.

The first burial in 1854 was that of Mrs. John McTavish, the former Nancy McLaren.

This cemetery has been enlarged three times.

In 1898 a second cemetery was opened on the opposite side of the road, on the North- East corner on the farm of John McBride. This was known as the McBride's Cemetery. The first burial was that of John McTavish's second wife, the former Christine McLarty, widow of Alex. Battin.

There was a discussion of uniting the two cemeteries in 1929 and again in 1937. Finally, on June 2nd, 1938, the two cemeteries were joined becoming the Cowal-McBride's Cemetery. It is still officially under that title, but is known as the Cowal Cemetery.

At the time of union there were six trustees, - three for each cemetery. The trustees were Fred H. Miller, John Thomson, Hugh Carroll, Hugh McCallum, Arthur Milligan, and John M. Campbell.

The trustees in 1966 are Hugh McCallum, Chairman, Joseph Carroll, Secretary, Clarence Campbell, Nelson Whitelock, Mac Milligan, and Jack Battin.

A small house was built on the old cemetery in 1938 to accomodate the public attending funerals, and James Milton was appointed the custodian , after the retirement of Fred Keates who held the position for many years. It now ranks in the list of well cared for cemeteries.

Since the union it has been necessary to enlarge the cemetery twice, and the land for this was purchased from Preston McBride. In 1965 the last enlargement was landscaped and laid out in plots. An extra strip for a roadway was puchased from Preston McBride by James Milton, who donated it to the cemetery.

1984 Update

The trustees in 1984 are Archie T. Campbell, Donald Campbell, Hugh McCallum, Donald McCallum and Russell van Den Dries. Joseph Carroll is Secretary-Treasurer.

A new sign stating the name of the cemetery was put up several years ago and the fences around the yard have all been painted.



JOHN McCALLUM

Mr. McCallum donated the south-east corner of his farm for the Cowal Cemetary in 1854. Mrs. John McTavish (nee Nancy McLaren) was the first person buried there. She died May 3, 1854, leaving three sons and three daughters. John McTavish then married Mrs. Christena (McLarty) Battin who had six children. She was the first person to be buried in McBride's Cemetary across the road in 1898.

COWAL CONSIGNMENT SALE 1922 - 1961

The farmers in Cowal, through the Farmers Club, decided to sell their cattle, pigs, and horses by consignment, so stock yards were erected just west of Cowal Hall on the farm of Daniel Patterson, later owned by John Archie Patterson.

It was decided to hold the sale during the first week in May (usually on Wednesday) and this date continued through the 40 years of the sale. The first sale was held on Wednesday, May 3, 1922 and the following item appeared in the Dutton Advance.

Wednesday, May 3, 1922

Extensive sale of 146 head purebred and high stock at Cowal, contributed by members of Cowal's Farmers Club, horses, pigs and cattle. Everything to be sold, No reserve bids, except on horses and purebred cattle. Six months credit. McAlpine and McTaggart, auctioneers.

Cowal News, the following week:

The sale of farm stock held last week by the Farmers Club was largely attended and on the whole a splendid success. Nearly 150 head changed hands and good prices were realized. Buyers were present from Strathroy, Mt. Brydges, Melbourne, Fingal, Shedden, Iona and other places.

The third Annual Sale was on Friday, May 2, 1924.

Lunch was served in the Hall.

Committee : B. Campbell, D. Carroll, B. Thomson.

Auctioneers were McAlpine and McTaggart. Cattle and pigs for sale, no horses.

The fourth sale was Tuesday, May 5, 1925.

90 head of cattle, plus hogs.

Auctioneers were McTaggart and McAlpine

The fifth sale was May 7, 1926.

114 head of cattle, 1 sow and 7 pigs.

Committee: J.A. Patterson, A.D. McTavish, A. Campbell.

Auctioneers: McTaggart and McAlpine.

Lunch available in Hall (likely by the Women's Institute which was organized in 1925)

The following week the Dutton Advance stated the sale drew a large crowd and bidding was spirited. Two year old cattle sold for \$85, grass cows \$50 - \$70. Total sales were \$9,000.



Cowal Sale

Cattle in pens, waiting to be sold.

Rail fences were used to separate

the many pens. The cattle were

auctioned off in a large pen at

the far end.



Cowal Sale 1929.

Picture copied from the Farmer's Advocate.

The 30th annual sale in 1951.

May 2, 1951.

Receipts were the highest in the history of the sale, totalling \$43,450, for 231 head of cattle. Herefords, Shorthorns and cross bred cattle were offered for sale. Stewart Brown, Shedden, paid top price of \$432 for a two year old Durham steer consigned by George Douglas and he also paid the top price of \$ 300 for a fat heifer consigned by George Rapelje. Hog prices weren't as brisk as cattle. Leading consignees were George Douglas, Hugh Carroll, Robertson Cameron and Archie McTavish. Auctioneers were Duncan A. Brown and Archie G. McAlpine who have conducted the sale for many years. The Women's Institute provided bountiful meals.



Picture taken at the Cowal Sale in 1951.

Dutton Advance May 10, 1951.