



**ARGYLE CHURCH SESSION**—These men form the session of Argyle Church, Crinan, in its centennial year. Seated, left to right: S. D. McIntyre, G. M. Carroll (clerk), Rev. J. M. McCurlie,

W. S. Stalker. Standing, D. McMurchy, J. A. Aldred, J. Carmichael, D. B. McCallum and J. D. Gilchrist.



**BOARD OF MANAGERS**—Forming the board of managers of Argyle Church on its 100th anniversary are, from the left: D. McPherson, K. McAlpine, J. D. McGill, W. G. McCallum, James

Tait, J. A. Aldred (secretary); Mrs. S. McIntyre (treasurer), H. Carroll (chairman), G. Jamieson, P. McCallum, Wm. C. McColl, J. S. Stalker, G. Livingstone.



# District Schools

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In 1912, some of the men from the Townline South and Lakeroad wished to start new schools along the townline, in order that their children would not have to walk so far to school. In order to divide the land off into its proper sections, they came along the townline from the lake to the river to try and form four sections. U.S.S. No. 1 and No. 2 were started. A petition was taken around to the ratepayers in our section to have one built, and enough names were put on it to favour a school in the community. The consent of the inspector and both township councils was obtained. Land was taken from the neighbouring sections of Argyle, Crinan, Campbellton and Bennitt's.

A meeting of the ratepayers was called to elect the trustees for the new section. Those elected were Neil Gilchrist, Robert Watson, and Neil McEachren. John D. Campbell was Secretary-Treasurer.

On Nov. 23, 1912, another meeting was held for the purpose of voting on a school site as selected by the trustees - namely: one acre of the North-west corner of Lot 1, Concession 3, Dunwich (the John McEachren farm). The site was agreed upon by the ratepayers and the plans for the new school began.

The new school was to be similar to the new Union No. 1 on the Townline. John Findlay, of St. Thomas, was the architect, William Saunders, Dutton, the building contractor, and John Taylor, Dutton, the brick layer. Thus the new school began to take shape.

The school was opened on the 22nd day of October, 1913, with fifteen of its sixteen pupils (most of whom had started their education in one of the neighbouring schools of Bennitt's, Campbellton or Argyle) present, and Miss Mary E. Andrews as teacher, at a salary of five hundred and fifty dollars. Those present on the opening day were:-Sandy Stewart and Hazel McCallum (as fifth class pupils), Marion McEachren, Peter McPherson, Clarence Stewart, Jennie Mae Gilchrist, Alice Rember, Douglas McCallum, Norman McEachren, Harold Belton, Mildred Campbell, John G. Montgomery, Tom Minnice, John Gilchrist and Mac McCallum. Mary Thompson started the next week as a fifth class pupil.

During the years, the following teachers have taught there:- Mary E. Andrews(3), Madge McMillan(2), Margaret Campbell(1), Roderick Finlayson(1), Janet Walker(1), Vera Smith(1), Edna Burrows(1), Marion McEachren(6), Marjorie Cameron(3), Mrs. R. Muir(3), Frances Simpson (5), Kathleen Armstrong(1), Jean Isaacs(2), Catherine Andrews(2), Carrie McLean(4), Mrs. Allan McDonald(1), Mrs. Basil Turner(3), Margaret McTavish(2). Miss Jeanne Reid is the present teacher, receiving a salary of twenty-four hundred dollars.

Many graduates have gone from the school to the many different vocations of life - minister, doctor, druggist,



engineer, librarian, business secretaries and teachers, as well as successful farmers. There were also some who answered the call to serve King and Country.

The school has served the community down through the years. During World Wars I and II many gatherings, quilting bees, etc. were held for Red Cross purposes. In later years it has been the centre for card parties, dances, farewells and bridal showers. In 1944, the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Crinan W.I. was held in it. One thing it has always been noted for is the Annual Christmas Concert, consisting of songs, dialogues, drills, recitations and pantomines. The pupils have always taken part in and won many prizes at the Rural School Fair, held at Dutton, and in later years at Wallacetown. In early days, Sunday School was held every Sabbath afternoon, when all the children of the community gathered for the teaching of the lesson. Duncan Campbell and Ronald Walker were Superintendents, each, in turn, receiving a gold-headed cane from the class, on retirement. Rev. Wm. Matheson, of Chesley, still holds Church Services in the school on several Sunday afternoons each year.

On account of the small number of pupils attending U.S.S. No.4, it was closed in 1942 and the pupils brought to U.S.S. No.3. Then in 1952, some of the pupils from Bennett's (which was also closed) came to this school to receive their public school education. So, at the present time, this school is serving three sections.

Many changes have taken place since the school was built. The wood and coal furnace has been replaced by an oil one; hydro has been installed; text-books are supplied to each pupil; and dental and medical officers of health visit the school regularly, and check on the children's teeth and health. A great change has also taken place in the course of study since 1912, but we hope all these changes will make our children better men and women of to-morrow.



# Early School Pictures



1914 - 1915

Marion M<sup>c</sup>Eachren.

Margaret M<sup>c</sup>Rae.

Clarence Stewart  
Alex M<sup>c</sup>Rae  
D.C. M<sup>c</sup>Rae  
Peter M<sup>c</sup>Pherson.  
Margaret M<sup>c</sup>Rae  
Marion M<sup>c</sup>Eachren.



Fred M<sup>c</sup>Rae  
Enabelle Watson  
Florence M<sup>c</sup>Eachren  
Emma Watson.



John G Montgomery  
Tom Minnice  
John Gilchrist  
Mac M<sup>c</sup>Callum.





UNION S.S. NO.4

The school is situated on the Alborough and Dunwich townline, in Dunwich, Lot , at the end of Concession A. It was built in 1920 and closed in 1940.

The pupils who enrolled for the first term in the school were:- Fern Simpson, Donald Simpson, Gerald Dymock, John Aldred, Frances Simpson, Margaret Tait, James Tait, Doris Godley, Helen Simpson, Emerteen Simpson, and Bandeena Dobson.

Miss Nellie Campbell, of Crinan, taught in 1922, and taught for 3 years. Miss Mildred Campbell, of Crinan, accepted the school after being chosen from seventy-four applications, and taught six years. Miss Anne Switzer, of Appin, taught in 1931, and remained 2 years. Miss Mary McMillan, of Kintyre, followed in 1933 and taught 1 year. Miss Florence Forman, of Alvinston, taught the next four years. Miss Agnes McWilliam, of Largie, taught from 1938 to 1939. Miss Jean Isaac, of Ilderton, was hired for the term September 1939 to the end of June 1940.

The attendance of pupils at its height was twenty-two children, of which, for a short time, two or three were little Indian children. The attendance gradually became smaller, until one pupil, Jean Carroll, remained for the term ending in June 1940. The school was closed then. This section still operates as a school section, having its pupils transported to U.S.S. No. 3 in 1957.



S. S. No. 9, Alborough.

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In writing a sketch of the school section No. 9, Alborough the school history and that of the community is closely related. The school is a gift of the sturdy pioneers to this generation and to the generation to come.

The first pioneer settlers in this section were the late Messrs. Elijah Sutton and John Shaw. These sturdy and hardy men pioneered homes along the banks of the River Thames. These homes were situated on opposite sides of what is now known as the Graham Road. On the Shaw homestead a son, George, still resides. The next settler to come to this locality was the late Christopher Matheson in the early part of 1849, and the homestead is still owned by descendants of this pioneer. Later in the same year Christopher McRae and Peter Johnson settled here. The following year James Stalker, Archibald and Donald McEachren chose this locality as their future home. 1851-and 52 these were followed by Duncan Stalker, Stewarts, McLeans and Curries. In the next three years many settlers came, the names of which are familiar to us all; - Campbells, McMillans, McMurchys, McIntyres, etc.

These sturdy and hardy pioneers were mostly Highland Scotch, who brought with them from their mother country their inherited Saviour, - loving reverence for the church and school. So, -after hewing homes out of the virgin forest their next thought was for a place of worship and education.

As far as can be learned from the records of these pioneers, the first school was erected in the very early fifties. The men of the community gathered and chose a site for the school. This was on the corner of what is now the 2nd Concession and Graham Road. The sturdy pioneers soon erected a fine log building, it was a crude construction but strongly built. It was decided to use this building for a school and church until such time as a church could be erected.

The first school section was made up of a large area of country, comprising several of the sections of today. The first school was aptly called "The Crinan Academy" by the late Dugald McKeith. The first teacher to explain the mystery of the three R's was Miss Janet Grant, followed by Thomas Strachan. Mr. Archibald McLean was one of the outstanding teachers of the early period, in that he taught for two terms and then studied for the University.

As the country became more settled it became necessary to have more schools. The school was moved to its present site. An item of interest is that when Dr. Webster was supplying for Mr. John Baine, who was ill, there were 45 pupils on the roll and 27 of them answered to the surname of Campbell.