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In 1890 a new brick building was erected. The late Andrew Clanahan, a Glencoe carpenter was the contractor of the present brick building and the late John Templeton, West Lorne, laid the brick and erected the splendid stone foundation. This stone foundation stands as a Memorial to the sturdy pioneers as it is one of the best, if not the best in the township. As far as can be learned by the records the cost of the building was two thousand dollars.

An outstanding event in the school days with Mrs. McColl as teacher, was the fine picnic held in Crawford's woods, (McKillop's today). The school children gathered at the school and marched behind the Band to the picnic grounds. At this time there was a Glee Club and much of the entertainment of the day was given by this group. The ladies of the section provided a sumptuous banquet with several story cakes and plenty of other goodies for everyone. A Celebration on Columbus Day was held when many ratepayers gathered at the school. A good program was provided and a picture of the group was taken which is on display today.

During Mr. Milloy's teaching a picnic was held in the same woods with the children marching to the grounds. A part of the program was the dance around the Maypole by several scholars. A delicious supper was served and there were many tired but happy wee folks.

In the same year Mr. Milloy, ably assisted by his sister, Miss Jane Milloy, held a Christmas tree entertainment. This, at those times was an event in the life of the younger generation. Of this program some of the items are still impressed on memory's wall. Hoop Drill by several girls dressed in white; a chorus by the school. The Moon was given with motions; two recitations "The Old Folks at Home" and "Curfew shall not Ring Tonight". Mrs. John McPherson and her daughters delighted the audience with their songs.

During later years there have been splendid concerts until we come to the present time when the children of today show and return thanks to their teachers of school and music by their splendid ability to come before the public.

During the years since the first log school house was built until 1940, when this article was written, there have been graduated from its portals in every walk of life, ministers of the gospel, doctors, lawyers, member of Parliament, as well as school teachers, both High and Public school.

Then there are some others who must be honored by remembrance today,- those boys who, in the dark and trying days have left home and loved ones to go to serve their country and their King and to aid in promoting Peace and good fellowship of man.

There has been several Inspectors during the life time of the school. The Medical Officer and nurse visits the school periodically and the children given Serum for prevention of diptheria and scarlet fever, also vaccination for small pox.

There is also a truant officer but if all schools were like No. 9, he would have an office but no work connected with it.

Celebrations of the fiftieth Anniversary were held on the school grounds. Invitations were sent to all ex-pupils and teachers and a good many came. Letters of congratulations were received and read from those unable to come. The Committee in charge deserve great praise in making the day so enjoyable for all.

S.S. No. 9.

ALDBOROUGH



Drawn by Mrs Donalda McRae



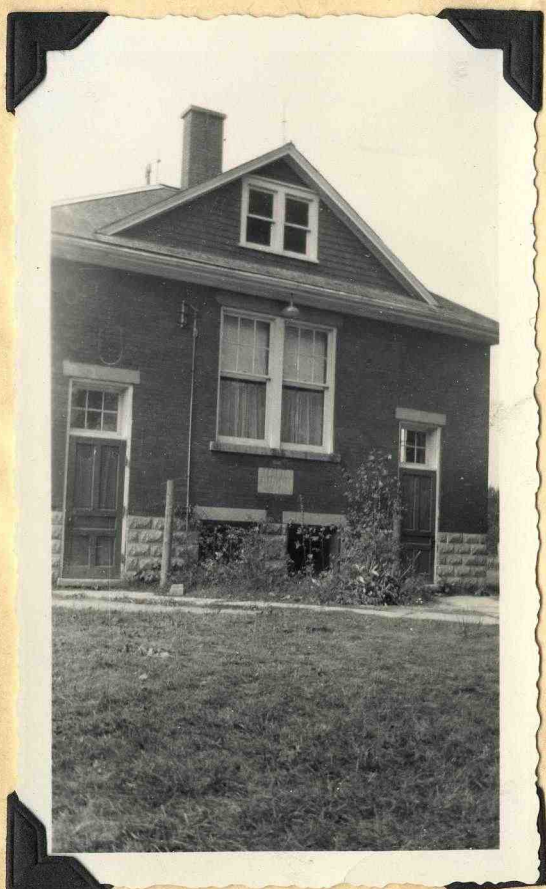
U. S. S. No. 3
now O. W. Community Hall.



S. S. No. 9.



S. S. No. 14



S. S. No 12

Union School Section Number 3.

It is recorded in the history of S. S. Number 9, Aldborough or better known as Crinan school, that in the early days children had to walk a great distance to school as one school served a large area. Smaller sections were formed so Union School Section Number 3 was built in 1913 on the corner of the third concession of Dunwich and the townline.

Miss Mary Andrews was the first teacher. During the early years of the school Sunday school was carried on during part of the year enabling children some distance from church to get religious training. Miss Campbell (now Mrs. Dollar of St. Thomas) was the teacher of the school at the time and, who was instrumental in starting the Sunday school Mr. Ronald Walker was superintendent and Charles Pitt, treasurer.

As the school is equipped with Hydro and suitable for social gatherings the Institute held parties to raise funds for Red Cross purposes, and community activities were also held, also quilts were quilted by the ladies in the evenings.

Celebrations of the 25th Anniversary of the Institute were held in the school in 1944.

Union School Section Number 4.

Union School Section Number 4 was formed to serve the extreme North East area bordering on the River Thames so a school was built in 1920.

As years passed the time came when there were not enough children in the section to keep the school going so it was closed in 1940. The children who became school age after that had to be transported to Union School Section Number 3, so at the time of writing the little Red School house remains closed.

ARGYLE SCHOOL.

Argyle School is on the boundary of the territory we have taken in our Tweedsmuir History Book. It is situated on the corner of the Fourth Concession and the Graham Road.

The first school was built in 1872, and was remodelled in 1890. During a terrific windstorm that school was blown down in 19~~80~~⁸⁶, and school was carried on in a dwelling house near by. A new school was erected the same year.

The name "Argyle" is well known to all in this district as a great many of the pioneers came from Argyllshire, Scotland.

S.S. NO. 12

This section comprises 4100 acres of land. The first school was built in 1872, and the first teacher was John B. Campbell, who afterwards became manager of the Western Wire and Nail Company, London. The second teacher was Alex McKillop, who later became a doctor, and practised in Dutton.

This section gave to the County of Elgin one of its most recent wardens - Mr. D. K. Andrews.

Ferndell

S. S No. 14, Aldborough was made up of a number of lots, or portion of lots, from five surrounding sections, Crinan, Argyle, Kintyre, No. 11, and a few from Rodney section. It had its beginning two years before the date that now adorns the front of the building, which is in the centre of the community called Ferndell.

The idea of the new section was conceived by Wm. Haines whose small children had to walk the intervening two or three miles between his residence and Crinan.

Mr Haines knew that before anything could be done he had to get the interest of Mr. W. Atkins, the Inspector of Public schools for this district. Mr. Atkins demanded a survey of the proposed section with number of children that might attend at the new school. Then meetings were called of the rate payers of the proposed section and the proposition was discussed from every angle. There was much opposition at first, as it looked as though the building of a new school-house would put too great a burden on the now over-taxed rate-payers, but with dogged persistence they battled on; at last it was decided to build, and with one accord they joined together and on the 4th day of June, 1887, at the residence of Wm. Haines a meeting of the ratepayers was called to nominate and elect trustees for the new school section. Those elected were Wm. Haines, Dugald McMillan and Christopher McRae, with Chas. Palmer as the first Secretary Treasurer.

Their first duty was to select a site for the new school-house; the one selected being one half acre on the East corner of the 6th concession and owned by J.C. Haunseberry of St. Thomas, for which Fifty dollars was paid on the 13th day of January 1888. They asked for tenders for the erection of a school house with the following specifications. It was to be 25' x 30' with foundation of brick one foot thick and the walls veneered with brick for which the following tenders were received:-

J.B. Johnson, Dutton	\$808.00
T. C. Campbell, Rodney,	799.00
Chas Roach, Aldborough	697.00,

from which the lowest tender was accepted. The building was finished during the year and on the 20th day of October, 1888 Eliza McDiarmid was engaged as teacher for the year 1889 at a salary of \$290.00.

Among those who served as trustee during those pioneer days was D. B. McColl, John McMillan, George Aukland, Peter Jamieson, Archie McMillan and Wm Awey. Those who served as Secretary Treasurers were Chas Palmer, A. McMillan and Archie J. McColl.

After Miss McDiarmid the teachers who served during those pioneer years were as follows: Miss Fitzgerald, Miss Mary C. McColl, Miss Annie Maloy, Miss Maggie McColl, Miss Katharine Johnson and Mr. Erwin King.

Mrs. Haines, wife of the oldest trustee, was given the honour of naming the school. As there was a profusion of ferns growing around the school, she named the school "Fern Dell".

Mr. James Jamieson who is still living in the section was one of the first pupils.

A great improvement has taken place in the last few years. The school now has drinking water which is kept in a thermos container, individual paper cups, inside toilets, and a radio. There is also a first aid kit which was presented by the Crinan Women's Institute a few years ago.
