

DUTTON HIGH SCHOOL ✓

For some time prior to 1886 there was a desire in the minds of the progressive people of Dutton and vicinity to provide some more advanced education for the young people than that given by the public schools of the district. Meetings were held in the district, the object being to get the people interested in the new school. Local parents with girls and boys old enough to attend a high school were interested in a new High School and subscribed cash. They have been repaid many times.

The district took in Aldborough and the villages Rodney and West Lorne, and Dunwich and Dutton. The school was going well when, like a bolt from the blue, Aldborough and the villages to the west managed to drop out, leaving Dutton and Dunwich, then, later, Dunwich withdrew and left Dutton alone as the ditstrict. This was a great disappointment to Dutton, but being a Scotch municipality it survived the test. Dunwich, however, has enjoyed the privilege of a good high school in its midst and many of its students have taken their senior matriculation at the Dutton High School and finished their education at some university.

As with many institutions, no one has taken the trouble to make notes of the records of the school. This should be done as we go along as otherwise many interesting items may be missed.

In looking over the Dutton Enterprise for notes regarding the building of the new school we got some information. In 1885 there appeared the following: "Entrance examinations for West Elgin will be held in Dutton in place of in St. Thomas January next." This showed that it was understood that a school would be opened soon. On December 3rd, 1885, -"The trustees of the Dutton High School have decided not to build until the spring on account of the time of year. (They intended to get a temporary Building that will answer for a few years, then build again) but they have decided to build a substantial building, and plans may be drawn, the contract let and the material on the ground that the work may be

started early in the spring. The examinations will be held here all the same."

....."The Dutton High School will be opened Monday, January 18th, 1886, with William Rothwell B.A., late of Perth Collegiate, as Head Master and Mr. Archie Morrow of Toronto Assistant.

These gentlemen came here very highly recommended as among the most successful High School masters in the Province. Pupils wishing to attend the school be on hand next Monday morning. Everything will be done to make the school a success. Board can be had in private families at reasonable rates-

Angus M. McIntyre
Chairman

D.C. Leitch "
Secretary.

....."The School Masters of the High School came last Saturday and school was commenced Monday."

The upstairs in the Brown Block was rented by the school Board and used as class rooms during the erection of the new school.

Below is a list of the names of the pupils who attended the school during the time school was carried on in the Brown Hall:

Edward Humpidge	Robert Fletcher	Emma Lyons	Lizzie Cameron
Edward Knight	John McPherson	Lissa Crane	Kate McCallum
James Brown	William McPherson	Clara Moore	Melissa Anderson
Edward Rothwell	Rufus Brown	Belle Paterson	Kate Johnston
Aldis Cameron	John Love	Jessie Rothwell	Jennie McKillop
Arthur E. Leitch	William Docker	Ethel Rothwell	Millie McFate

Names of the pupils beginning of 1889:

J. Rothwell	Kate Ramsey	D.F. McRae	C.E. Knight
William Docker	Ella Jackson	Nellie Brown	John McKillop
Thomas Watson	Mary Fowler	Lizzie Campbell	Archie Graham
Amos Gilbert	Jessie G. Rothwell	Stella McLean	G.D. Ruthven
Duncan McCallum	A.J. McMullen	Kate McNeil	Ethel Rothwell
David McPherson	A.E. Leitch	Ella Cachill	Henrietta McRae
James Thompson	B. Graham	Kate Johnstone	Sarah McMillan
Peter Johnston	M. McLean	Kate McPherson	Rose Fletcher
Josephine Searle	W. Paton	Wm. McPherson	Lizza Cameron
Clara Moore	R. McFate	Robert Fletcher	Lissa Crane
Annie Lyons		Daniel Graham	Florence McIntyre

At this time it is impossible to give all the names of the staff from 1886 to 1899.

The first principal was William Rothwell, B.A. A.C. Crosby, C.R. Gunn and D.S. Skinner were three later principals, and the early assistants included Archie Morrow, Jas. Short, James Tremeer, A.B. Ven Tresse, Etta Charles and I.T. Norris. The following is a list of the teachers in the High School from 1900 to 1930:

	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Assistants</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
1900	J.C. Payne B.A.	A.L. McLennan	J.A. Taylor B.A. 79
1901	J.A. Taylor	E.G. White	R.W. Anglin D.M. McDougall 79
		A.W. Dunkley	E. Jean Taylor Helen B. Alexander 101
1902	J.A. Taylor	D. McDougal	G.A. Ferguson E. Jean Taylor 129
		E. Simpson	
1903	John A. Taylor	G.A. Ferguson	E. Jean Taylor E. Simpson 79
1904	John A. Taylor	E. Simpson	G.A. Ferguson G. Story 164
1905	J.A. Taylor	W.H. Williams	M.E. Tate J.C. Smith 136
		A. Fairchild	159
1906	J.A. Taylor	J.C. Smith	M.A. Buchanan Edmund Wethey 159
1907	J.A. Osgoode	B. Robinson	J. McKay J.H. Smith 129
1908	E.O. Liebner	J.A. Osgoode	J. McKay B. Robinson 122
1909	E.O. Liebner	E.F.L. McCutchen	A. Cole W.E. Ovens 141
1910			
1911	T. Elliott	A. Cole	E.L.F. McCutchen I.O. Halley 105
		H.F. McCutchen	M.A. Stone 82
1912	Thos. Elliott	A. Cole	Jean Reed Gertrude Pratt 82
		Isabel O. Halley	
1913	Thos. Elliott	I.O. Halley	Gertrude Pratt A. Cole 87
1914	T. Elliott & F. Sine	I.O. Halley	Eva Coulter A. Cole 82
1915	W.J. Morrison	Margaret C. Ross	A. Cole Margaret Evan Ross 77
1916	W.J. Morrison	Margaret C. Ross	A. Cole Mary Ross Graham 96
1917	W.J. Morrison	Margaret C. Ross	A. Cole Margaret A. Lees 96
1917-1918	J.L. Mitchener	Margaret C. Ross	J.A. Kinnear Margaret A. Lees 101
1918-1919	T.W. Elliott	Bertha F. Fraser	Margaret Lees Jennie Kinnear 97
1919-1920	T.W. Elliott	Jennie Kinnear	Hilda Castleman Elizabeth Gartlan 114
1920-1921	T.W. Elliott	Caroline Vrooman	Elizabeth Gartlan Hilda Castleman 111
1921-1922	T.W. Elliott	Hilda Castleman	E. Gartlan Caroline Vrooman 122
1922-1923	T.W. Elliott	W.C. Anderson	Thelma Cliff E. Gartlan 149
		S. Moore	
1923-1924	T.W. Elliott	Helen Coyle	Pearl Crabbe Keith McEwen 138
		Doris Hooper	
1924-1925	T.W. Elliott	Louise Elieger	K. McEwan O.L. Tully 145
		Miss Anne Hood	
1925-1926	T.W. Elliott	Gladys V. Bluett	A.G. Hume Josie Medd 150
		Louise Flieger	A.T. Hood
1926-1927	T.W. Elliott	Jean B. Smith	Josie Medd Margaret McEachern 135
		Marion S. McAlpine	
1927-1928	T.W. Elliott	F.R. Simpson	Marion McAlpine Helene de Mouilpied 132
		Jean B. Smith	
1928-1929	T.W. Elliott	Charlotta McDonagh	Kathleen Margrett Helene de Mouilpied 137
		F.R. Simpson	
1929-1930	T.W. Elliott	F.R. Simpson	Mrs. E.G. Kirkland Helene de Mouilpied 135
		Charlotta McDonagh	

This paper would not be complete unless we gave special mention to a few of our graduates. We were always glad to point to the late Hon. Duncan McArthur as one of our best pupils and a decided success in his after life. Born in Dunwich, near Dutton, educated in the Dutton Public and High Schools and Queen's University, Kingston, where he took a course leading to the study of law, ^{he} was called to the bar, and was later associated with The London and Western Trust Company of London, Ontario, as solicitor and assistant manager. He was then appointed head of the History Department of Queen's University. Spending a good part of his spare time in the Dominion Archives in Ottawa, he there was able to accumulate a wealth of information. He was appointed Deputy Minister of Education for Ontario and in a very short time was appointed Minister of Education.

Doctor Robert Fletcher, now retired Deputy Minister of Education in Manitoba, was one of the class that first walked up the stairs to the Brown Hall in 1886. He was appointed Deputy Minister in 1908 and served in that capacity for Thirty-six years.

Richard Smith, a brother of Mr. Francis Smith who lives on the lake road, attended Dutton High School, and it is said of him that he walked the seven miles more often than he got a ride in his daily journey back and forth. He became Principal of Wingham High School, and was Mr. Bosman's first principal. He taught Mathematics, and prepared a text book on the subject.

This brings us to about 1929. It would be wise to keep the High School report up to date from year to year.

Mr. J.A. Bosman, who has been our Head Master for nearly fifteen years, is in our opinion, one of the best principals in the Province.

Below are the names of the winners of the Sifton Medal:

1928-Hilton Saxby	1932-Helen Duncanson	1936- Duke Clunas	1940-Eleanor Richards
1929-Annie McWilliam	1933-Nancy Robb	1937- Ann Panter	1941-Mary McKellar
1930-Ellen Ruston	1934-Jean Stalker	1938- No award	1942-Jank McEachern
1931-Lloyd Paton	1935-Florence Leitch	1939-Gwendolyn Johnston	1943-Irene Walmsley
			1944-Marion McNeil

FIRES IN DUTTON

Dutton had its first big fire on October 14, 1885, with nearly a whole block burned, with a loss of about \$26,000 and insurance \$14,582. The origin of the fire was unknown. It started in the hall of Lanes brick block, the lower part of which was occupied by Hockin and Poole, general merchants. Those businesses which were destroyed were, S.E. Spurn, Silas Brown, Hockin & Poole, C.W. Hodder, A.N.C. Black, George Duncan, J.C. Price, Sam Wilton, D.J. Thompson, J.W. Hendrie, Miss M. McTavish, W.H. Vogt.

The second fire in Dutton was in February, 1886, seven buildings being burned. The loss was estimated at \$9200, insurance, \$4850. The fire started at the rear of McWilliam's Butcher Shop. The buildings burned were, John A. Kerr's, A.N. McWilliam, A J. Leitch, Duncan McMillan, Ed. Roach, Fred Lees, W.H. Nelson's Hotel was slightly damaged, as was Urlin Bros. store.

In 1898 A.D. Urlin's store was burnt down. It was on Shackleton Street on the Royal Bank site and east.

ELEVATORS

The principal shipping of grain in the later seventies and eighties was done by Meredith Conn at Tyrconnell, where there was a dock, and vessels used to come into Tyrconnell and take away cargoes of grain, principally wheat. Finally Mr. Conn moved to Dutton where there were railroad facilities, and where he built an elevator extending his business, and a residence for himself, the home now occupied by Mr. Herschel McLandress. In the early nineties Mr. William McLandress of Iona, father of Herschel McLandress, bought the elevator and residence of Mr. Conn. He ran the elevator for some years, and before his death his son, Herschel, took over the business, and dealt extensively in live stock, wheat and grain, beans, seed and coal.

Other grain and seed buyers in the earlier days were Mr. J.J. Sifton and Mr. George Carr.

The Farmers' Co-Operative established a warehouse of its own some years ago. It was managed originally by the late Linley McCallum, then by Bruce Thompson. They deal in grain, live stock and coal.

CLERK OF THE COURT

Mr. Samuel McColl was the first clerk of the Division Court, and on his death Mr. Sydney Smith was appointed. He in turn was succeeded by Mr. Archie McCallum.

BANKING IN DUTTON

Dutton has always been well served with bankers. Mr. A.M. McIntyre carried on a **private** banking business in the building now occupied by the Dunwich Township Clerk. Mr. Poole carried on a private banking business, as did Mr. A.N.C. Black and, later, John Mitton.

The first chartered bank was the Traders Bank, which was taken over by the Royal Bank of Canada. The Molsons Bank was also established here until it was taken over by the Bank of Montreal. The Bank of Montreal closing its branch here, there is just one bank, the Royal Bank, but it does a big business.

POSTMASTERS

Mr. A.J. Leitch, one of the most prominent men in Dutton, was Postmaster for a great number of years. His block was burned in one of Dutton's many fires, but he rebuilt the Post Office where Russell Braddon now has his store. Mr. Leitch was interested in municipal matters, and was Reeve of Dutton for a number of years. On his death Mr. Alex McKillop was appointed Postmaster, and had as his assistant Miss Sarah McKillop, who carried on for some years after Mr. McKillop's death. On her retirement from ill health, Mr. John A. McNeil, veteran of the first World War, was appointed to the post.