

The Early Mills

No history of the River Road settlement would be complete without mentioning the mills. Some of the older members of the community remember them and while to-day none of the buildings remain there are traces of the buildings and of the mill ponds. To Mr. J. A. Campbell we are indebted for the following information. Chas. Conrad had a walnut mill at the right side of the road below the Fulton Hill. This mill was of course run by water. There was so little room for logs there that the machinery was moved across the road into the flats now owned by Dan McPherson. It was then run by Hugh, son of James Fulton and Adam son of Adam. Many logs were saved there. Lumber was sold in London and some furniture brought from there. At the mill they made scythes, rakes, and cradles. There was also a brick yard in McPherson flats. (south of the bridge) Some of the older residents can remember the chimney of the brick kilns.

On the Frank Jones farm there was a brick yard run for years by Milt Brady, while on the Ewan McIntyre farm another was run by a Mr. Telford an ancestor of the Telfords living in Southwold.

The brick building at the north of the residence of John and James McIntyre West River Road was at one time a factory or mill where scythes etc. were made.

River Road School



1897 - 1948



1948 - 1980



1983



THE ORIGINAL RIVER ROAD SCHOOL
BUILT IN 1850

RIVER ROAD SCHOOL ABOUT 1922



Front Row

John Chaplow, Bill Chaplow, Archie Barrie, Harold Patrick, Morley Lindsay, Joe Coleman, Finlay McPherson, Fred Lindsay, Ted Groves, Ken Yeo, Ernie Groves, Don McCandless, Kenneth Campbell, Herbie Jamieson.

Back Row

Mildred Lindsay, Lena Metler, Nettie Patrick, Emma Kelly, "Miss Bessie Grass", Margaret Kelly, Ina Barrie, Jean Metler, Dorothy Lindsay, Laura Patrick, Annie Barrie, Clara McGaw, Catherine McPherson, Dorothy Kelly, Jean McCandless, Elizabeth Turnbull, Alma McGaw, Kathleen Precoor.

RIVER ROAD SCHOOL ABOUT 1926 OR '27



Front Row

Bill Metler, Ernie Ryckman, Gordon McGaw, Ken Yeo, Harry Axford, Allen McCandless, Ray McCandless, Joe Coleman, John Chaplow,

Second Row

Marianne Coleman, Lila Axford, Helen Yeo, Florence Yeo, Elizabeth Kelly, ? , Myrtle Lindsay, Ella Axford, Dorothy Kelly, Alma McGaw, Jean McCandless.

Third Row

Maurice Douglas, Lena Metler, Doris Parker, Mildred Lindsay, Nettie Patrick, Edith Butcher, Clara McGaw, Catherine McPherson, Donald McCandless, "Mr. Claud Garton".

Fourth Row

Harold Patrick, Bill Chaplow, Viola Ryckman, Dorothy Lindsay, Ina Barrie, Jean Metler, Morley Lindsay, Archie Barrie.

RIVER ROAD SCHOOL

The first school in Section 4 Southwold was built in 1850, the trustees at that time were John Campbell, Duncan McLarty and George Lawton. One acre of land had been given for the school site by Mr. G. Lawton. It was situated at the corner of his farm, near the gully on the east side, of the farm, now in 1946 owned by W. Coleman's family.

At one time a private school was held in the old meeting house, which was a Methodist Church, where the graveyard stands on the Mellor Farm. Miss Sara Mellor taught a private school there. Some of the seats of the old church are in the United Church at Shedden and the church is now the Womens Institute Hall at Union. Mrs. John Mellor had been instrumental in building the church.

Some of the early teachers in School Section No 4 were Dr. Penwarden, Dr. Jon. Leitch, Ralph Staffor, Rev. David Burtch, Lauchlin Leitch, Dr. Fulton, Malcolm Cameron, Mary Arnold, Josephine Wardell, Miss McTavish, Laura McLean and Victorio Campbell.

On September 18, 1896 at a meeting of the ratepayers of School Section No. 4. Southwold it was moved by J. Jackson and seconded by a Mellor that the section build a new school house. It was agreed that the school be built on the south-east corner of Adam Fulton's southwest field. The trustees at that time were Ewen McIntyre, Angus McLarty and David Thompson. During 1897 the school house was built and the first teacher was Miss Minnie Sanders.

Since 1897 many changes have been made up to 1946 which were as follows,--

- In 1921 basement was put under school
- 1922 a furnace was installed in the basement.
- 1925 the W.I. Had swings erected.
- 1926 windows were built on one side to improve lighting
- 1927 the school was licensed for a community hall
- 1928 the ceiling was lowered
- 1929 $1\frac{1}{2}$ acres of land was bought from S.A. Fulton
- 1931 music was introduced by Mr. Medlyn teaching
- 1932 hydro was installed
- 1944 new seats were installed
- a new honor roll of both wars was made
- 1945 new cement walks built.
- 1947 new well and pressure pump put in school
- 1948 an annex built consting \$3500
- 1949 cupboards
- 1951 new oil burner
- 1952 insulation installed and fluorescent lights
- 1952 new piano - purchased by R.R.W.I. cost \$100.00
- 1954 new hardwood floors
- 1958 new bookcase, new well dug by H. Axford, M Fulton.
- 1959 new seats
- 1960 new seats
- 1963 new seats
- 1964 new oil burner

In Oct. 1964 - the school was sold to Mrs. S.A. Fulton.
at Mrs Fultons death Murray Fulton inherited it.

River Road School

Murray Fulton sold the school to Gordon and Audrey Flanagan and they sold it to Mary E. Anderson (Mrs. Robert) on April 30, 1980. Then it was sold on July 3, 1980 to Thomas Murray and Claudia Jane Baldwin. On August 1, 1982, the Baldwins bought an additional piece of land from Robert M. Anderson.

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Teachers of River Road School
since 1881

Miss McLellan,
Eliza Thompson,
Katie McGregor,
Ella Campbell,
Mary Mc Coll,
E.E. Clarke,
Minnie Sanders,

In the new school,

Minnie Sanders,
Harry Cross,
Miss Whitton,
Elsie Davis,
Annie Lyle,
Amy McGugan,
Grace Murdock,
Delia Jennings,
Eva Haines,
Clara Begg,
Estelle Harrison,
Norma Rooney,
Miss White,
Ida Lewis,
M.V. Campbell
Everett McCurdy,
D. Baldwin,
Bessie Grass,
Claude Garton,
Edna McGaw,
Pearl Robinson,
Aleta McGugan,
James Stewart,
Kathleen Armstrong,
Mrs. S.A. Fulton
Mrs. McLaren
Mrs. Margaret Austin
Miss Eleanor Smith
Mrs. S. A. Fulton
Mrs Bessie Campbell
Mr. Gordon Waldie
Miss Willemina Schipper
Mr. M. De Graw
Mrs. Bartlett

Teachers from the River Road Community.

Elsie Davis
Ella Campbell
Violet Francis
Edna McGaw
Agnes McPherson
Ronald Axford B.A.
Donald McCandless
Jeannette Campbell B.A.
David McPherson B.A.
Hugh McPherson
Janice Campbell
Marilyn Metler
Wilhemina Schipper
Grace Schipper

Business

Helen Campbell
Jean Metler
Lena Metler
Jean Yeandle
Catharine McPherson
Myrtle Lindsay
Mildred Lindsay
Lila Axford
Geanalta Darrach
Doris Campbell
Alice Cummings
Maurice Douglas
Ruth Carter
Ella Axford
Colin Campbell
Gary Rieger
Russel Rieger
Dugald Campbell

Doctors-

James Fulton
James Davis

Nurses-

Eva Joiner
Annie Barrie
Florence Campbell
Elva Chaplow
Lela Francis
Winnifred Jennings
Marianne Coleman
Barbara Reid
Rhea Schipper
Jane Begg
Rose Mary Reck (nursing assistant)
Karen McPherson
Mrs. Marvin Caughell 1971

Miss Cindy Caughell attended Ivan R. Sales School of Hairdressing in 1977.

Music

Jean McCandless
Marianne Coleman
Jeannette Campbell
Janice Campbell
Darlene Metler
Marilyn Metler
Stephen Fulton
James Fulton
Kennella Campbell
Janice Campbell

Joe Coleman, Robert Lindsay took courses following return from
World War 2

GR 13 and Tech Graduates

Joe Coleman
Francis Coleman
Murray Fulton
Fulton Darrach
Robert Lindsay
Colin Campbell
Stephen Fulton

Agricultural College

Wm. D. Metler
J. H. McPherson
Gery Rieger

Technological Institutes

Russel Rieger Western Ontario Institue of Technology

Brian Fritsch graduated from Kingston Military College.

Bayham Area School Principal

Everett McCurdy

Honored on Retirement

Former River Road Teacher:

To the nostalgic strains of "School Days," on June 29, 1960 Pupils, former pupils and many friends of Everett McCurdy, principal of the Bayham Area School, bit a fond farevell at a surprise retirement party held Tuesday afternoon in his honor. Mr. McCurdy, principal here for the past nine years, is retiring after 40 years in the teaching profession.

With most of that time spent in Elgin County schools, Mr. McCurdy's countless friends came from many centres in the county, and as far away as Toronto, to attend the party held in the cooling shade of the big maples on the school grounds. Cecil Ball, a school board trustee, was program chairman.

The retiring principal was presented with a sum of cash, a gold watch and a folio of letters from former pupils and friends, many of whom were unable to attend. The presentations were made by Ray Thurston, Mrs. Ross Knowles and Mrs. Ellen Mitchell on behalf of the Home and School Association.

RIVER ROAD SUNDAYSCHOOL

by Frank E Thompson

The River Road Sunday School was first organized about the year 1890 (possibly a year or two before that) and was from the beginning a Union Sunday School. The first Superintendant as I recall, was a Mr. Lamond. After a year or two he moved away and Mr. E. O. Green, Union volunteered to assume the responsibility of directing the Sunday School. He developed into a very fine and faithful Superintendant and the members after a few years rewarded him with a bicycle to assist him in his five mile weekly journey to the River Road School, Mr. Green himself being the teacher of the Adult Bible Class. The Sunday School met in the afternoon at three o'clock and among the early workers and teachers as I remember were Mary Fulton, who later married and moved to London, and her brother Hugh Fulton, and Mrs. Wm. Davis and later John Parker and his daughter Edna, when the Davis Family moved to Lucan, Adam Fulton was always a great helper in the Sunday School, in the early years, especially as Treasurer and as teacher of a Young People's Class. Grace Campbell was my Teacher at one time and I remember later Mrs. Corman took part in the teaching.

The Annual Lawn Socials during the latter part of June were always enjoyable social affairs and likewise the Christmas entertainments with their interesting programs of local and special talent.

The writer was Secretary for many years and also Assistant Treasurer for Mr. Fulton. In 1909 was Assistant Supt. and in April 1912 at the Annual Sunday School Meeting was made Superintendant and Mr. Green was appointed Honorary Superintendant.

Mrs. D. B. McPherson was Superintendant after F. E. Thompson and held that office until it closed in 1936.

Early Cars of River Road.

Harper's 1911 Hupmobile

Lee Black 1913 Ford

McIntyre 1914 Reo

Neil Campbell (Union Rd.) 1914 Ford

Mr Platz 1914 Ford

John Fulton 1915 Studebaker

J. Campbell 1915 Grey Dort