

were made from slate found in the ground, while the slates used were bought from the store.

The teachers who taught in this school were Alvro Ladd, Lemuel Ladd, Phyral Ladd, Jane Hyndman, Robt. Mowbray, Mr. Pots, Alexander Weldon. In those times school was held only six months a year which constituted a term.

The house on Mr. Backus' farm fell into decay, and Atkinson Conn, who settled in Canada in 1823, organized bees, and in that way built a log schoolhouse on the corner of his place in 1835 (across from the former Frank Smith home). The house was about 16 x 18 ft. It had three windows and a door. It was built of logs with a floor and board ceiling in it. There was a stove instead of a fireplace. The desks, benches and books were the same as those used in the school before described.

These schools were not in what is now called Tyrconnell school section, yet scholars from No. 9 and all around went to them as they were the only ones in the neighborhood. The first school held in No. 9 was in the back room of a house owned by Enoch Clarke. This was situated on the east side of No. 9 hill on the north side of the road. This was in 1847. School was taught by Miss Jané Best and was held for only six months.

In 1848, the first school in No. 9 was erected by a few individuals. It was built on a lot given for the purpose on the east side of No. 9 hill. (This was situated east of Steve Hentz's driveway). The schoolhouse was 16x20 ft, and was weather-boarded outside. There was a good floor in it, and the walls were sealed up to the windows; the rest, together with the ceiling was plastered. It contained four windows, one door and a stove. The teacher had a chair and a small desk, but the scholars had only slab seats and a board desk around three sides of the room. The desk had a shelf under it for the scholars to use for their copy books and slates. In a year or two desks and benches were put in. These were long enough for five or six pupils. The first teacher in this school was Miss Jane Best. In 1850, Robt. Backus taught on a salary of ten dollars per month and boarded himself. From 1851 to 1855 the teacher was Wm. Benson.

At a special meeting in July, 1856, it was moved and seconded that a new schoolhouse be erected on Lot 4, south side of St. George St. This lot was purchased from James Blackwood.

In 1856, the school section had trouble with the Municipal Council. The council wanted to take property from school section No. 2 and give it to No. 3 and No. 13, which they did in spite of a petition which was sent to the council. This was given back in 1858.

In May, 1862, at a special meeting, it was moved and seconded that the trustees select a piece of ground as a school site, and submit their selection to a school meeting, on or before the first day of Jan. 1863. On Oct. 22nd, 1862, at a special meeting of the ratepayers, it was moved and seconded that the section choose half an acre of ground on the south east corner of George Allen's farm as a school site. (This is the present site of the school).

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The school was built in 1864 and was farther back from the road than the present school. It was a frame building 20x25 feet. It would seat approximately 50 pupils. The walls were sealed with boards as high up as the blackboards, and above that it was plastered. The floor was covered with good wide boards with cracks between them. There were two entrances. Inside one entrance was a huge square box stove that would take almost a four-foot stick of wood. The wooden desks and seats were wide enough for two pupils. The teacher had a desk and chair. There were three blackboards in the room. The cost of this school was paid in two years. The cost of the deed and land was \$425. In 1865, a well was sunk and a pump put in.

In 1881, the scholars had so increased in numbers, there being about 75 in attendance and 125 on the roll, that an addition of 18 feet was added and a partition put in, dividing the school into two rooms. As a result, for a few years two teachers were engaged. This addition was later removed, for as the town dwindled, the number of scholars decreased.

In 1887, the school had to be repaired to pass inspection by the inspector. It had to be repaired again in 1901. At this time, there was a discussion about building a new school, but nothing was done till 1906, when a discussion was held at the annual meeting. A special meeting was called on April 13th, 1907. At this meeting, it was voted to use the same site, but build closer to the road.

Our beautiful, red brick school was built in 1907. It stands close to the road, and has two entries, with a fair-sized cloak-room for both boys and girls. The large basement is under the main part of the school. The teacher's room contains large cupboards for holding books and supplies. The size of the school is 35x22 feet.

The many windows on the west and north let in plenty of afternoon sunshine. There are blackboards at the front and sides.

It is interesting to know who did the work in building the school. The building of the school was done by Saunders and Kendall. The brickwork was done by Edward Small. The slate roof and blackboards were supplied by Tomlinson and Tummon. The furnace was put in by the James Smart Co. N. H. Darrach drew up the plans.

In 1908 more land was bought from Merridith Conn on the east side of the schoolhouse.

Also in 1908, the old schoolhouse and woodshed were sold to John Bedford for \$126. It was moved to the top of the lake hill on the right hand side of the road, and was later converted into the picturesque home occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Chris Schollenberger.

Many are the memories we have of our red brick schoolhouse, whether we were pupil or teacher; some treasured beyond price, others the opposite, and many to cause a hearty laugh as we reminisce. But now we look ahead to the future and see our bright-eyed children boarding the school bus which transports them to our new urban-type school. Let us look ahead and go forward with them.

Improvements Thru the Years

In 1918 School Fair prize money was paid by the section.
In 1923 an organ was purchased for the school.
In 1929 a new furnace was installed, bought from Carman Lyons for \$274.00.
In 1931 a piano was bought for \$80.00.
In 1939 hydro was installed by Alex Law for \$166.00.
In 1942 inside toilets installed, \$343.00
In 1945 a stoker was installed for burning coal.
In 1946 Tyrconnell school became part of a School Area, along with Coyne's, Wallacetown, Iona and Iona Station.
In 1946 a travelling library was started.
In 1962 flush toilets and drinking fountains were installed by Don Ford for \$945.00.
In 1965 Tyrconnell became part of the Dunwich-Dutton School Area.

Some of the Secretaries

Jonas A. Page, 1912; William Pearce, 1913-1915; J. W. Morrish, 1916-1917; Ernest Backus, 1918-1935; Douglas Walters, 1936-1939; D. M. Littlejohn, 1940-1942; Miller Page, 1943-1945; George Casey, 1946-1947; James McKellar, 1948-1964; Miss Margaret Leitch, 1965-

Teachers

The teachers in the school since 1855 when William Benson taught were:

Thomas L. Armstrong, 1856-1857; Matthew Cole, 1858; E.A. Stafford, 1859 and first half of 1860; Daniel McColl, second half of 1860; Daniel Galbraith, 1861; William Benson Jr., 1862-1863; John Thompson, 1864; Malcolm McCallum, 1865; Dougal McNeil, 1866; Edward Osborn, 1867; Walter Osborn, 1868; Edward Osborn, 1869; Alfred Marsh, 1870; G. W. Stafford, 1871-1875; Anson Volger, 1876 (part time); Miss C. Roberts, 1876 (part time); Edward Osborn, 1877; D.L. Campbell, 1878; D.F. Graham, 1879; C.F. Grey, 1880; J.E. Ore, principal and Miss Moryer, assistant, 1881; J. E. Ore, principal and Miss B. Barker, assistant, 1882; H.A. McCallum, 1883 (two months); B. Burges, 1883 (four months); A. McKellar, 1883 (six months); D.A. McKillop, 1884; C.W. Peets, 1885 and three months of 1886; Miss S. Walker, 1886 (nine months); James Revell, 1887; Archibald Galbraith, 1888; A. Patterson, 1889-1891; James A. McIntyre, 1892 (six months); A. Patterson, 1892 (six months); Miss Annie Geddes, 1893-1895; Fred Beer, part of 1895; Miss Jessie McColl, 1896; Miss Rose McIntyre, 1896-1897; no record for 1897-1900; Miss Annie Geddes, 1901-1903; Miss F. McDonell, 1903-1907; Miss Isabel McIntyre, 1907-1909; Miss Annie Campbell, 1909-1912; Miss Ada Kennedy, 1912 (Sept.-Dec.); Kelso Carson, 1913 (Jan.-June); Miss Edith Halpin, 1913-1914; Miss Bessie Watterworth, 1914 (Sept.-June Ded.); Miss Florence Hoskin, 1915 (Jan.-Oct.); Miss K. McGuire, 1915-1917; Miss Winona Bryden, 1917-Dec. 1918; Miss Jennie Wright, 1919 (Jan.-June); Miss Jennie McIntyre, 1919-1921; Miss Mary Hamnett, 1921-1923; Miss Madge McMillan, 1923-1924; Miss Jennie Poole, 1924 (March-June); Miss M. Templeton, 1924-1926; Miss Gertrude Campbell, 1926-1930; Miss Edna

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McColl, 1930-1940; Miss Shirley Langford, 1940-1941; Miss Nancy Robb, 1941-1942; Miss Florence Leitch, 1942-1945; Miss Joyce Hunt, 1945-1947; Mrs. Gertrude (Campbell) Page, 1947-1959; Miss Maureen Rogers, 1959-1960; Mrs. Leta West, 1960-1961; Miss Marion Murray, 1961-1965; Mrs. Annie Brown, 1965-1966.

Music Teachers

Miss Elsie Paton, 1936-1938; Miss Orpha Leeming, 1939-1941; Miss Annie McWilliam, 1941-1944; Mrs. Margaret Welch, 1946-1950; Miss Joyce Hunt, 1950-1955; George Robb, 1955-1956; Harold Edmonds, 1956 (six months); Gary Martelle, 1957 (four months); Mrs. Florence McCorquodale, 1957-1959; Mrs. Reta McIntyre, 1959-1964; Mrs. Alice Lingard, 1964-1965; Mrs. Annie Leitch, 1965-1966.

Tyrconnell Reunion Draws Large Crowd.

Marking the closing of another Dunwich school - that at Tyrconnell - a reunion was held on Saturday, August 13th, which attracted about 400 former students, teachers and friends.

The guests included many former pupils, including Norman Adlington, of Victoria, B.C., who won the prize for having come the farthest distance.

Mrs. Goege Gilbert, 90, of Wallacetown, was the oldest former lady pupil, and Eric Trothen, the oldest former male student. Allistair Littlejohn's family of 10 children won the prize for the largest family present.

Included in those attending were the following who had attended the original school on the present site: Mrs. Mae (Moss) Gilpin; Mrs. Hattie Gilbert; Eric Trothen; Mrs. Lulu (Lyons) Eckhardt; J.U. Brown; Talbot Brown; Mrs. Eva (Morrish) McKillop; Morley Page; John C. McKillop; Mrs. Thelma (Parks) Asseltine; Mrs. Gladys (Jewell) Strong.

Rev. R. B. Cumming of London, Ont., formerly of Tyrconnell, was chairman of the program, which included dancing, a ventriloquist, and singing by the school children.

Following the program a lunch was served and there were sports events for the children.

John S. Pearce was master of ceremonies; Mrs. Douglas Walters was secretary and typist, and Mrs. Gertrude Page prepared the history of the school.

Invitations committee - Mrs. F. Brown, Mrs. Gordon Campbell, Mrs. Murray Brown, Mrs. Gordon Gow, Mrs. Murray Jacques, Mrs. Robert Page, Mrs. Douglas Walters, Mrs. Gertrude Page, Mrs. M. Griffiths.

Lunch Committee - Mrs. Miller Page, Mrs. and Mrs. Harold Lyons, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Page, and Mr. and Mrs. Louis Marcus.

Program committee - Mr. and Mrs. Morley Page, Mr. and Mrs. Robt. Simms, Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Campbell.

Registration committee - Mrs. Gertrude Page and Mrs. Douglas Walters.

Welcoming committee - Mrs. F. Brown, Mrs. Gordon Gow, Mrs. G. Campbell.

The 5 Wallacetown District CSchools were all sold by public auction - auctioneer - Ken McAlpine.

Coyne's School was sold to Bob Kingswood for \$1700.00.

Tyreconnell School was sold to Bob Davis, Detroit,- \$5250.00.

Willey's School was sold to Mac Gordon for \$700.00 and the furnace sold for \$400.00 - \$1100.00.

No. 1 was also sold to Mac Gordon for the price of \$850.00 to be used as a meeting place for the Full Gospel Sect.

Wallacetown School was later sold to Mr. Joe Van Nuland for the sum of \$3500.00.

OVER 300 ATTEND REUNION AT COYNE'S CORNERS SCHOOL

A reunion and picnic marking the closing of Coyne's Corners School on Saturday attracted more than 300 former pupils, teachers and friends. They came from a wide area for what likely will be the final reunion at the school whose history goes back to 1828.

The reunion program was conducted by Dr. Joseph Hooley of Ridgetown, a former teacher at the school, who was introduced by the most recent teacher, Mrs. Thelma McFarlane. Dr. Hooley taught there from 1911 to 1912.

In his remarks, Dr. Hooley referred to his days at the school when there was considerably more community spirit than at present. There was more home visiting at that time, too, and the operation of a literary society at the school was just one example of how people of earlier days made their own entertainment.

The program opened with a chorus by the children from the last classes at the school. Mrs. Annie Leitch, music teacher for the area, accompanied them on the piano. The pupils will attend the Dunwich-Dutton Public School next year.

Highland dancing was provided by the White sisters, Linda and Nancy, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Ronald White of Denfield. Mrs. White is the former Annie Catherine Cameron and attended Coyne's Corners School.

Other former pupils, Miss Sheila McGugan, Wallacetown, Clarence Ripley and Anthony Englehart, both of Dutton, played numbers on the violin and accordion. Miss Carolyn McLandress, Wallacetown, contributed piano selections.

A. Bruce McCallum, reeve of Dunwich, brought greetings from the township. He stated people attend such reunions with mixed feelings. It is pleasant to meet old friends and reminisce about the past. On the other hand, there is a note of sadness at the realization that the small one-room school is disappearing and that such reunions probably are the final ones.

Reeve McCallum wished the central school board success in its new venture and asked all to co-operate in making this greatest change in our educational system in a century a success.

Mrs. Lorne Shipley, 82, and John Kairns, 79, both of Dutton, received prizes for the oldest lady and gentleman former pupils in attendance. To Mrs. Harvey Carless of Vassar, Mich., went the award for the former pupil coming the greatest distance.

Inside the school photos were on display of former classes and pioneers of the area. Registers, old books and other items of interest were also displayed.

Throughout the afternoon, Anne McWilliam and Laurie MacDonald favored with bagpipe selections.

Pupils of the final class at Coyne's school remembered their teacher, Mrs. Thelma McFarlane, with three attractive and useful gifts. Carolyn McLandress, in making the address, said "in looking back on our school days here we shall always remember you as a grand teacher." Presenting the gifts were Ann Ford, Mary Ann Keating and Joseph Knapp.

REUNION AT COYNE'S CORNERS SCHOOL
ON SATURDAY TO MARK CLOSING

A reunion to mark the closing of S.S. 3, better known as Coyne's school, will be held on Saturday, July 16th. Registration will take place on the grounds at 3 p.m., with lunch served at 5 o'clock. In case of rain the reunion will be held in the Community Hall, Wallacetown.

Committees in charge of the event are as follows:

Lunch: Mr. and Mrs. Ed Cairns, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. McLandress, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Lyons, Mr. and Mrs. F. Knapp, Mr. and Mrs. D. Graham, Mr. and Mrs. S. Parkins; program: Mr. and Mrs. J. Campbell, Miss M. and Anthony Englehart, Clarence Ripley, Mr. and Mrs. S. McGugan; invitations: Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Cameron, Mr. and Mrs. J. Casey, Mr. and Mrs. D. Cameron, Mr. and Mrs. D. McGregor; grounds: A. Ford, W. Clarke, C. Ashmore, R. Braddon, D. Lyons, C. Robinson, K. Cowan, J. Schaffer; registration: Mrs. A. Ford, Miss G. Ripley, Mrs. C. Lyons, Mrs. H. Gowan; welcoming: Grant Cameron, Mrs. T. McFarlane, Mrs. Wm. McKillop, Miss M. Englehart.

The following history was prepared by a committee of Mrs. W. S. McKillop and Grant Cameron:

In 1814 one of the early settlers in the community was Henry Coyne. The Coyne Rd. and Coyne's Corners were named after him. Also, S.S. No. 3, Dunwich is known as the Coyne's school. The school now stands on the Coyne Rd., half way between Clay St. and No. 3 Highway.

The first school was begun in 1828 in a dwelling house near Love's Cemetery. Duncan McKillop was the teacher, but during the first quarter the dwelling was burned. The school then was moved to a log cabin on George Gunn's farm, where it was held only to finish the quarter.

The next school, a log building used as a dwelling, was owned by Alex Clarke. This school was taught by James Campbell for six months. In 1831, the school was a log building on the George Gunn farm, and was used until 1842. The teacher was Abraham Leahigh.

By 1842, a larger building was necessary. The parents held a meeting, there being no trustees at this time. Archie McIntyre was appointed secretary-treasurer. Money being scarce, it was decided that each one furnish the materials needed. Some supplied logs, others nails, lumber, etc.

It was built on Henry Coyne's farm, now Bert Braddon's. The log building is still being used by the Braddons.

About the year 1865, the section built another school, the sixth and last. This was a frame building on the Gunn farm later owned by Harry Garbutt.

Coyne's Corners section was too large, so a townline school was built in 1878. That same year the frame school was bought by the trustees, namely Henry Garbutt, Peter Cameron and Alexander Dewar, for the sum of \$35.00 and moved to its present site.