

The school was brick veneered in 1898 to prevent it from being moved again. The interior was plastered and whitewashed in 1897.

In 1946, S.S. No. 3 went into Area 1 with Tyrconnell, Iona, Iona Station and Wallacetown. In 1964 the school again joined up to form a larger school in Dutton, called the Dunwich-Dutton School. While waiting for an addition to be added to the Dutton Public School, S.S. No. 3 held classes in the same school on the Coyne Rd. until 1966, when the school was closed in June for the last time.

Through the years the school has been a centre where the section held entertainments and various other meetings.

The Literary Society held meetings there in the early 1900's. Many were the hot debates they had, and at least one play was put on. Names of some of the members were Alex Erskine, Ed. and Dan Clarke, Dave and Tim Crowley, Bill and John Patton, John R. and Peter Cameron. The teacher was active in this society.

Coyne's Farmers' Club met there for a number of years from 1917 on. The trustees asked that they pay 25¢ a meeting to the janitor for the extra work for him. Peter G. Cameron was a member of this Club and later became an M.P.P. in the U.F.O. Government.

Coyne's Sunday School had services at the school in the summer months in the early 1900's. Bible study was held inside and a social time outside. Many a romance had its start at the S.S. and at picnics held in the woods at Jonas Page's.

In the early years the school sometimes stayed open only for a quarter. The quarter generally began in December and ended in February. The rates were \$1.50 per quarter per pupil. The method was to pass a paper around and have the parents sign for as many as they had, or could afford to pay for, until the list was large enough to pay the teacher. Then the teacher was engaged for three months. When they could afford to run six months in a year, they felt they were getting up in the world. The branches taught were merely the three R's - reading, writing and arithmetic.

Then in 1895 it was moved by E. Clarke and seconded by G. O'Malley that all moneys for the school be raised through the council. It was agreed in 1897 to levy \$350.00 on the school section for school purposes.

As the years passed the records show the levy was raised almost every year, until 1920, when it was \$902.00 and in 1930, \$1,006.00.

Around the year 1931 records show that the county grant started quite low, but in 1944 the grant was \$600.00 and the levy \$611.00, an almost equal amount. From then on the money was increased.

The expenses in the early years were low. Around the 1900's the teacher, Amos T. Ripley, received \$285.00 a year. He also swept the floor and started fires all for the same salary. This was the custom for years until a caretaker was hired in 1907 for about \$36.00 a year.

Improvements to the School

1900 - J. C. Campbell was given the contract to build the woodshed for the sum of \$68.00. George Braddon was asked to build a fence between the school and Mr. Clarke's. The trustees stipulated the fence posts be cedar and the lumber, chestnut. The price - \$26.00. 1904 - A well was dug at a cost of \$2.25 a ft. Well to be 16 ft. deep. 1908 - A flag pole was erected in the school yard. 1939 - Hydro was installed in the school. 1942 - Inside toilets were installed. 1946 - Alex Stewart built cupboards at the back of the school room. Cost: \$46.94. 1951 - Russel Braddon installed an oil heater for the sum of \$261.95. In the following years the school was insulated, new roof put on, painted, etc. 1959 - A new heating system was installed by Don Ford at a cost of \$1,512.00.

Highlights and Achievements From 1934 On (No records of earlier ones)

At a music festival in St. Thomas in May, 1934, the school was awarded first prize for Rural School Chorus. The prize was a picture, "The Shepherd". The song - Santa Lucia.

Annie Cowan, a pupil, won first in 1936 at a public speaking contest for the Township of Dunwich.

Rev. Harry Garbutt, a returned missionary from Africa, and a former pupil, paid a visit to the school in 1939 and gave a talk on his work in Africa. The same year the pupils went to Glencoe to see His Majesty, King George VI and Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth. Their train stopped there for a few minutes.

In 1942 at Wallacetown Fair the pupils won first prize on their "Arts and Crafts" project, also grand special on four classes for best project on display.

In 1957, Kathy Drummelsmith won the zone finals of Ontario at a spelling bee in London. She received a wrist watch and other gifts for herself and an encyclopedia was given to her school, S.S. No. 3. She went to Toronto to compete against fifteen other top spellers and placed third. Kathy, at eleven years old, won the Five-County Speaking Contest. Her address was Dr. Salk and Anti-Polio Vaccine.

In 1957, Sharon Campbell at eleven years old had a perfect score of 100 points at a Rotary Music Festival in St. Thomas, and also won a \$100.00 scholarship. At Chatham she was the winner over twenty-one other pianists with a score of 86 points. That same year at West Lorne, Sharon won both the piano class and spelling class.

In 1963-64, Susan and Linda Lyons won first in the duet class at the Rotary Music Festival in St. Thomas.

Trustees and Secretaries

Secretaries - 1895, Alex Clarke; 1900, J. C. Campbell (held the post for 45 years); 1946, George Casey; 1948, James R. McKellar; 1964, Miss Margaret Leitch.

Trustees - 1878, Henry Garbutt, Peter Cameron, Alexander Dewar; 1895, John Patton, Alfred Shipley, George Braddon; 1900's, R. Garbutt, Leslie Hamilton, Wm. Beer, George Gowan, John R. Cameron, Thomas Ford, Ed. Clarke, W. H. Farr (17 years), Sam Robinson, W. H. Ford, Dan Clarke, Arlo Irvine, Lloyd Ripley, Ernest Ford, George Casey, D. O'Malley, Wm. McKillop and Carmen Lyons.

1946 went into Area No. 1 with four other schools. The five trustees were: John Cameron, Herman Page, Lloyd Smith, Will Pollard and James McKellar. Later ones on this board from S.S. No. 3: Margarete Gowan, George Drummelsmith, Jack Campbell and Harold Lyons.

1964 again went into larger school with Dutton: Trustees, Albert Ford, Alistair Littlejohn, Paul Young, Don McCallum and George Ford.

Teachers

While the school was on Talbot St., one of the early teachers was John Thompson, who was a military man and very strict. The school was filled with grown men and women in the winter months, who were, no doubt, hard to manage. Other teachers were Mr. Currie, Mr. Battle, Mr. Kennedy and Mr. John Clark.

1878 to 1966 Donald Campbell (1878-?); Miss Stewart (1895-1896), Amos T. Ripley (1896-1900), Annie Geddis (1900-1901), Mary McArthur (1901-1903), Edith Jordon (1903-1906), Annie Graham (1906-1907), Miss McLarty (1907-1908), Isobelle McIntyre (1908-1910), Miss Hyndman (1911-6 mo.) Miss Groom (1911-6 mo.) Joseph Hooley (1912-6 mo.), Harry Smith (1912-1913), Miss McCallum (1913-1914), Miss Clunas (1914-4 mo.), Miss Young (1914-1915), J. C. Black (1915-1917), Miss McKellar (1917 - 1 mo.), Miss Gilbert (1917-1920), Lila Campbell (1920-1921), Miss Lewis (1921-1922), Miss Donaldson (1922-1923), Robert Ripley (1923 - 6 mo.), Alice Galbraith (1924-1927), Marjory Cameron (1927-1929), Berna Clarke (1929-1932), Elsie Patton (1932-1936), Annie Ripley (1936-1941), Miss Cath. McKillop (1941-1942), Miss E. McMillan (1942-1944), Annie Ripley (1944-1947), Nancy Robb (1947-1948), Mrs. Edna Carey (1948-1949), Mary Fletcher (1949-1951), Mrs. Annie Brown (1951-1952), Mrs. Thelma McFarlane (1952-1966)

Music teachers

Miss Elsie Patton (1936-1939), Mrs. N. Welch (1939-1950), Miss Miller (1950-1952), Mrs. Joyce Todd (1952-1955), George Robb (1955-1956), Harry Edmonds (1956 - 6 mo.), Gary Martelle (1957 - 6 mo.), Florence McCorquodale (1957-1958, Reta McIntyre (1959-1963), Alice Lingard (1964-6 mo.), Mrs. D. Leitch (1964-1966).

ENJOYABLE REUNION AT WILLEY'S

It was the first reunion in the 119-year history of S. S. No. 4, Dunwich Public School - and, it was the last.

Almost a year ago the two-room single-storey yellow brick building was gutted by fire and the decision was reached by the trustees not to rebuild. Students attending the school at the time of the fire were sent to Iona and the school fell into disuse, soon to be torn down.

On Sunday afternoon, nearly 400 former teachers, students and their families gathered at S. S. 4 school for their first and last reunion.

Mrs. Ethel Lyons supervised the registration and Mr. and Mrs. St. Clair Graham and their committee extended a welcome into the school yard where old acquaintances were renewed. Seventeen former teachers returned to have corsages pinned on them and to renew almost forgotten acquaintances with former students.

Many people brought old school pictures dating back to the late 1800's with them and this proved a very interesting display as almost everyone took time to study the pictures to see how they looked so many years ago. An old arithmetic book in a display of old books bore the name of Etoile Gow (Mrs. Roy Lyons, Dutton). She attended the school over 70 years ago.

Although rain threatened from time to time a short, but pleasing program got underway at three o'clock. The school children, under the direction of Mrs. Donald Leitch, started the program off with the singing of "OCanada", followed by "Canada, My Home", "Do You Know?" and "School Days".

A short history of the school was written for those who attended by Mr. and Mrs. St. Clair Graham and Mrs. Elle Bell Robb. It appears as follows:

"In the year 1847, John Gow and James Robertson came from Queen's County, New Brunswick to Willey's Corners. They cut down timber to make room to build homes for themselves. There were also John Campbell, John McPhail, Duncan McArthur, Colin Leitch and Robert McKirdy, the first settlers at Willey's School Section 4.

"The first school in 1848 was a log house built from trees cut from the lot to make room to build the school. This log school was built on land opposite Willey's Sideroad.

"In 1853, they moved this log school west about a mile to Duncan McArthur's farm, as there were more families settling around, and they wanted the school to be more in the centre of the section where the people lived.

"In 1857, they built a new school, the frame being the same that is in the school today. Its heavy timbers were cut from trees they cleared off the land for a lot to build the school on.

"John Gow took the contract to build the school and he and his brother-in-law John Grey did the carpentry work.

"The first teacher was John Gilmore. The school was brick, veneered in 1900. Hydro was put in when the furnace was bought. In 1959, an addition was built to the back of the school providing a teacher's room and washrooms. Water was brought in at this time.

"The school was named after Moses Willey on whose farm it was built. Willey's Sideroad was also named after him.

"Through the years of the school it has been a centre of teaching, and entertainment for Sunday School, literary meetings, plays, Christmas concerts and card parties. The people of the section and many people outside the section enjoyed the social gatherings.

"There are several families who have three generations that attended Willey's School. The late William Gow and his decendants numbered four generations in attendance."

FOUR DUNWICH SCHOOLS SOLD BY AUCTION: BUYERS TO CONVERT INTO HOMES

During the past week, four one-room school houses in Dunwich have been sold. They are no longer needed for school purposes as township students now attend the central school here.

Ken McAlpine was in charge of the auctions which also disposed of land, school bells, books, lawn mowers, blackboards, chalk and a variety of other items.

Last Thursday, S. S. 9 at Cowal was sold to Clifford Campbell for \$770. The building and acre of land adjoin his farm and Cliff hasn't decided as yet what use he will make of his purchase.

Earlier on Thursday evening, Mac Gordon of R. R. 2, Wallacetown, bought S. S. 12, Largie, for \$1,140 and plans to turn the former school house into a home.

Coyne's, Tyrconnell Schools Sold

Auctioneer McAlpine sold two more schools - Coyne's and Tyrconnell - on Friday evening. The former went to Bob Kingswood of R. R. 1, Wallacetown, for \$1,700 and he likely will convert it to a home.

The Tyrconnell school, a red brick building in excellent condition, was purchased by Robert Davis of Detroit for \$5,250. Mrs. Davis, the former Isabelle Campbell, was born in Dunwich and attended Coyne's school. The couple plan to turn the school into a summer home.

Some of the other prices received were \$15.00 for a roof bell at Coyne's, \$70.00 for a piano and \$15.00 for a hand bell.

Four More This Week

This week, the last four Dunwich schools to be sold will go on the block along with land and some furnishings. At 7 p.m. on Thursday, S. S. 6 at Iona Station will be sold and at 8:30 p.m. the school house at Iona will be offered.

On Friday at 7 p.m., Willey's school at S.S. 4, will be sold and at 8:30 the same evening the building, land, etc. at S.S. 7, Stacey's will be auctioned.

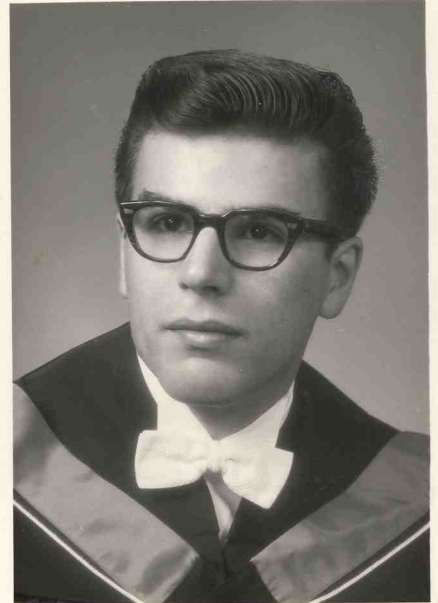
Wallacetown school is the only one being retained by the area school board. This is being done as a safeguard against future congestion at the new central school.

The sales are attracting 100 or so people each. Many are there with no intention of buying but simply to witness the disposal of buildings and equipment which give rise to a good deal of nostalgia.

Ellen Gayle Robson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Robson, R. R. #1, Wallacetown, received her Bachelor of Arts degree in 1967 majoring in English from University of Western Ontario. In 1968, she graduated from Althouse College of Education and accepted a position on the staff of Guelph Collegiate and Vocational School.



Franklin Ford, a graduate of West Elgin High School. He received his honor degree of Bachelor of Applied Science in Civil Engineering in 1967 and his Master Degree in 1968. He is employed with the Ontario Water Resources Commission in Toronto.



Ronald G. Campbell graduated from the U.W.O., with an honors B.A. in Journalism. He is presently on the staff of the Winnipeg Daily Free Press. He is a court reporter of the Provincial Judges and also radio broadcaster for the Free Press.

