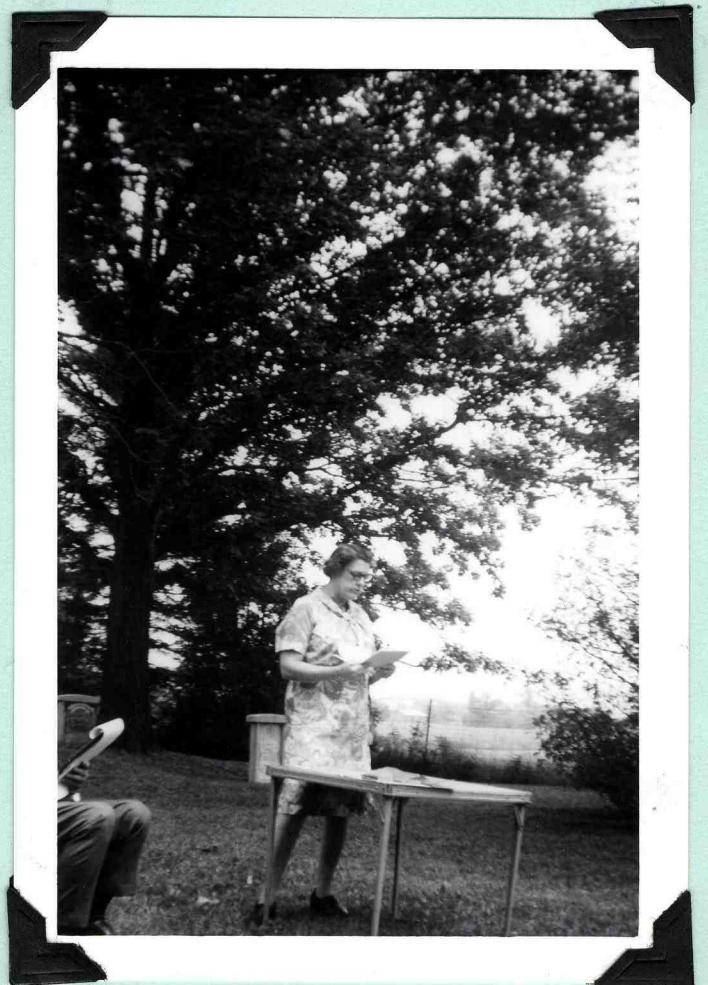
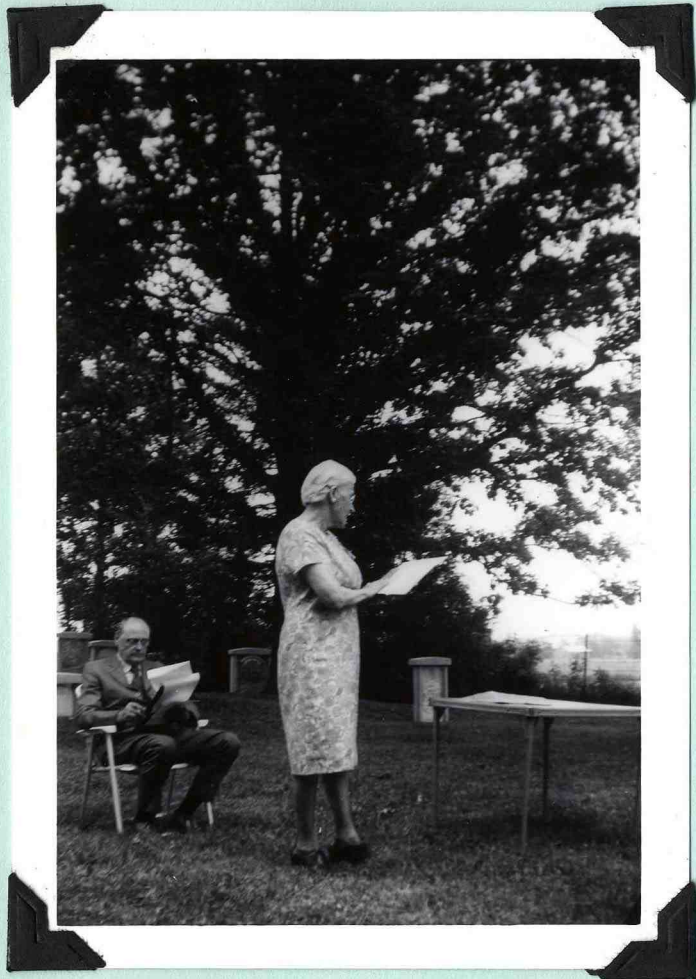




Mr. Ormonde Lewis, Chairman, addresses the gathering.



Mrs. Calvin Watson tells of the work carried out at the cemetery.



Mrs. Minnie Williams reads
from the records of Salt Creek
Church.



Mrs. J. G. (Isobel) Martin, President
of the North Yarmouth Historical Assoc-
iation addresses the members and friends
gathered for the dedication ceremony.



Mrs. Frank Moore of R. R. 2, Belmont, placed flowers on the grave of her great-grandfather before the dedication ceremonies. Her ancestor, Neil Douglas, who was buried on June 27, 1832, at the age of 24, died during a cholera epidemic in North Yarmouth.

EARLY SCHOOLS IN

NORTH YARMOUTH

Perhaps the earliest school in North Yarmouth was a small log building on the curve of the township road where Salt Creek empties into Kettle Creek, just south of the 11th concession and west of Radio Road. This school is thought to have been built of log construction in the late 1830's and destroyed by fire in the early 1840's.

When the Baker farm (west half of Lot 9, Conc. 10) was bought by William Baker from John Fairgrievies and his wife, Susan, on Oct. 28, 1847, a lot for a school-house had previously been reserved by the first owner of that farm, Hugh Douglas. (This was probably arranged at the same time as the $\frac{1}{2}$ acre lot for Salt Creek Cemetery was granted off the same farm by Hugh Douglas.)

The deed to William Baker from John Fairgrievies and his wife reads: "50 acres composed of the west half of lot 9, second range north of Edgeware Road, except nevertheless forever in the last mentioned tract and at the south-west corner of said tract a small block of land for a schoolhouse, said small block containing by measurement sixty eight square yards and one quarter of a square yard, and having a frontage to the street or road measuring from the corner of the lot just eight yards and one quarter of a yard eastward." (In the same deed and in the same manner mention was made of the one-half acre of land previously granted for Salt Creek Cemetery.)

This school, built in the 1840's was of log construction, with a large stove for heating in the centre of the room. The older pupils sat around the outside of the room, while the younger ones sat on benches placed around the stove in the middle. All used slates, as there were no scribblers, the only paper was a heavy wrapping paper and it was very scarce. The teacher would place the lesson on the blackboard and the students would have to copy as best they could.

John Patterson and Joshua Lewis attended this school as well as members of the Black's, Jones, Nobles, Coles, Bakers, Leitches and other families. Fifty to seventy children attended this school and all of the teachers were men, one of whom was a Dr. Simpson.

This school was replaced by the schools which were built on the south-west corner of Lot 12, Conc. 10 and known as the "Glen Schools" S.S. # 23.

A deed was given Dec. 15, 1848 for a lot for a school on the south $\frac{1}{2}$ of lot 12, conc. 10, the corner of Angus McIntyre's farm. This lot of slightly over ten square rods was deeded by the McIntyre family. A school was built in 1849 and served for about five years. In 1854 a pink brick one-room school was built which served the community for fifty years, being demolished in 1904 to be replaced by a red brick school in the summer of 1904 which served the community until June 1969. (See Glen Schools.)

About twenty-five years ago I was told by the late Mrs. George McCallum, the former Margaret Taylor, that she had been told by her parents that a log school was built about 1850 on a low piece of ground on the north side of the 13th concession where the C.P.R. crossing is now. (No one then living, or now, can confirm this.)

In 1860 a frame school-house known as "Skeldings" S.S. # 27 was built on the north-west corner of George Skelding's farm (north half of lot 14, conc. 12) which is almost directly across the road from the site mentioned above. (See Skeldings School.)

S.S. # 24 "Dewar's" school was originally built on Duncan Ferguson's farm, lot 9 conc. 12, but was moved across the road to Neil Dewar's farm about 1861. (See Dewar's School.)

EARLY SCHOOLS IN NORTH YARMOUTH

Another early school stood on the north-east corner of the north half of lot 16, conc. 10, the Archibald McCallum farm (now owned by Walter Matthews). A blind road originally ran north between the 10th and 15th concessions and this school was on the corner of the blind road and the 11th concession, and is shown in the Elgin County Atlas of 1877. The pupils from this school probably transferred to the school at Mapleton when it was built in 1870, as this was a union school, S.S. # Yarmouth and S.S. # South Dorchester. This school was situated on the south side of the 11th concession of South Dorchester, at the foot of the hill just east of Mapleton.

The old 10th Concession School was situated on the south-east corner of the old McLarty farm, lot 4, conc. 10. Like the other early schools this was small and of log construction and was probably built in the 1850's. The students sat on benches around the room, and later, after 1866, desks were installed and the students sat facing the teacher. Malcolm Sinclair, of the 11th concession, who for many years wrote "The Ingle Nook" in the winter months and "The Open Road" in the summer for the Times-Journal, was himself a former student, and later teacher, at this school. In 1874 a new school was built on the Townline (Wellington Road) at the corner of the 9th concession (north range, Edgeware Road, and the students were transferred there.

The school known as #24 Southwold and #25 Yarmouth was situated on the townline between Yarmouth and Southwold about two miles northwest of St. Thomas. It was of frame construction and was built in 1874. It served the community for forty-nine years, and as St. George St. and the Lynhurst area were becoming built up it became necessary to build a new school further south, where a modern two-room red brick school was built in 1923. (Lynhurst School.) The old school and land were sold by public auction on Dec. 28, 1923. The following year, on Sept. 6, 1924, it was sold to the Askew brothers who kept bees and stored their honey there for two years. On Nov. 2, 1926 the land was sold back to Henry Freeman, son of the former owner, and the school building was sold to Mr. Wesley Trigger, who moved the building to his farm and used it for an implement shed. This farm is now owned by James A. McBain and the old school building is still standing there. (See S.S. #24 Southwold and S.S. # 25 Yarmouth.)

There was another early school situated on the townline, (Wellington Road) at the 12th concession of Yarmouth, across the townline from the Townline United Church. As this school was in Southwold Township, we are not particularly concerned with its history, except that it too was a union school and many students from the north-west area of Yarmouth township attended it. A number of years ago it was razed and was replaced by a modern white brick two-room school. After the new school was opened on the Talbot Road, scholars from this school and Lynhurst school were bussed there, and the former school-house is now the clubhouse of the Croatian Club. (See Stories of the Townline School.)

Old S.S. #19 was a one-room white brick building situated on a rise of land on the north side of the Talbot Road (#3 Highway) west of New Sarum. Little is now known of this early school except that it was equipped with desks so it probably is of a later period than the log schools mentioned above. It is not known if there was an earlier school on this spot. Some of the old schoolmasters were: a Mr. VanVelzer, Dr. D. McLarty, of St. Thomas, who taught for several years, Thomas Leitch and W. W. Elliott. This school was replaced by a modern red brick school built at the intersection of the townline (#74 Highway) and the Talbot Road (#3 Highway) in 1946, which is still in use. The old school was sold to Omar Jennings, of St. Thomas, who converted it into a modern bungalow.

These schools, together with Belmont Public School, which was demolished in 1969-70, and Locke's, on the Edgeware Road, at the outskirts of St. Thomas, and which is now a part of the city school system, comprised the learning institutions which children from North Yarmouth attended.

In 1969 a modern school was built on #74 Highway directly behind S.S. # 19 and students from Dewar's, Skeldings, the Glen, Mapleton and Belmont, which were all closed, are bussed here.

Mrs. Harold R. Davis
March 1978

THE OLD TENTH CONCESSION SCHOOL

We will talk over the old tenth concession school in North Yarmouth, as it was forty or fifty years ago--the writer makes it purposely indefinite in order to spare the feelings of those who are touchy about their ages. This story was written by Colin Malcolm Sinclair who for many years wrote THE INGLE NOOK and THE OPEN ROAD for the Times Journal, and was a former student and later teacher at this school and the new school built on the Wellington Road in 1874.

INFORMATION WANTED

Wanted--The names of all who attended the old tenth concession, Yarmouth, school between 1866 and 1878, including school moved to the townline. This is only for old times sake, and a copy of the information received will be sent to those answering. Please state where living, occupation, if married, number of children, if any, etc. Address: James Hill, Room 420 Title Ins. Bldg., Los Angeles, California.

It will be noted that Mr. Hill specifies the years, 1866-1878, he attended this famous old school for some of those intervening years. The writer remembers him very distinctly on account of his definite personality. The Hills came from an old English family - in those days England was sending out some of her very best stock to Canada, chiefly from Devonshire. In many respects, the English immigrants of then resembled the Plymouth Fathers, who landed in Massachusetts, a sober, God fearing people, who could be depended upon to be on the right side of any and every moral issue. Canada never welcomed a sturdier or better class of settlers. Thus, the Hills were well-bred, in the best sense of that term. There were two lovely daughters, Miriam and Annie, and two sons, William and James, the former died some years ago, and the latter is now living in Los Angeles, so it seems he could not be a Hill without being a good citizen wherever found. As the writer received his early education at the old tenth concession school, he answered this ad in the Times Journal, and received from his old school-mate, James Hill, the following letter, with permission to publish if so desired.

Los Angeles, California,
April 16, 1923.

Dear Friend: It was no doubt a foolish thing for me to try to get the names of our old school-mates, but it has been very interesting for me to learn where some of you are, and what you are doing. I thank you for the information and wish for you I could do more than send the list of names I have been enabled to gather.

It is a long, long time since you and I wandered through the fields and woods or tramped over the dusty roads on our way to the old tenth concession school. Memory oftentimes plays some strange tricks, for it seems that as we grow older we remember our early days more clearly and think more often of our old school-mates. The time seems to pass more quickly now than it did fifty years ago, when we were eight years old a year seemed a long, long time, but when we were twenty-five years old, a year did not seem to long, and when we were sixty, a year passed so quickly for a year was only one sixtieth of our lifetime.

The old school house was certainly situated in a natural play-ground. Do you remember McLarty's field where we played "Four Old Cat", "Fox and Hound", "Pump, jump, pull away," or "Hide and Go Seek" out in the open field, using the sunken cradle knolls for hiding places. And McVey's woods across the road, where we climbed trees, chased squirrels, or gathered nuts and wild flowers? One of the boys I remember often played truant, and one morning the teacher sent two boys out to bring him in. He Climbed up a wild cherry tree and remained there all day, afraid to come down and the two boys afraid to climb up after him.

Have you forgotten the old swimming hole in Kettle Creek where the boys would go at noon, and the more secluded pond around the bend where the girls would sometimes go? We wore no bathing suits, but there was no trouble, except once, when three of the boys tried to steal the girls' clothes while they were in the water. The expedition was a failure, for the girls saw the boys coming and hid their clothes and remained in the water - only their heads showing above the surface.