

SKELDINGS SCHOOL REUNION



Introduction of the guests

Skeldings School reunion was held Sunday August 3rd, 1969 with registration at 12:30. A picnic lunch was served smorgasbord style at 1 p. m.

A display of old record books and pictures brought by former students was set up in the classroom.

The program was under the chairmanship of John Thomson. The special guests were introduced to the gathering and presented with a corsage. The honoured guests were:

Oldest pupils (before 1900) Mrs. Maud (Jenkins) McMurray, Belmont.
Mrs. Herbert (Mabel Thompson) Brown, Kingsmill.

(1908) Mrs. Hazel (Knott) Parker.
Mrs. Elwood (Edna Knott) Armes, Dorchester.

Oldest male student (1900- Dr. Ellar McKellar, St. Thomas.
1910)

Student travelling the greatest distance Gary Silverthorn, Montreal.

Mrs. Olive (Weaver) Ferguson, Belmont, was the oldest former teacher present.

Others were: Mrs. Norman (Beatrice Monck) Taylor, Belmont; Mrs. Hazel (Thomson) Runions, Guelph; Mrs. Harold (Gertrude Sells) Davies, Belmont; Mrs. Ruby Dundas, Glencoe.

Each one had some memory to share and in his reminiscences Dr. Ellar McKellar recalled a quotation often given by a former teacher:

"Look up and not down
Look out and not in
Look forward and not backward
Always do your best."

SKELDINGS SCHOOL REUNION

A history of the school was read by Mrs. Harold R. Davis and the rest of the afternoon was spent visiting and recalling happy memories of former days at # 27.

The committee responsible for the days activities were:

John Thomson, Chairman; Mrs. Harold R. Davis; Hugh McKellar; Mrs. Duncan Taylor; Colin and Louise Berry; George and Rowena Jenken; Hiram and Jerry Jenken; Mrs. Joe Howey; Jim. Taylor; Austin McCallum; John McInnes. Barbara Howey, Connie Jenken and Carolyn Campbell had charge of the registration of guests. 231 people signed the register.



BACK TO SCHOOL

Some of the over two hundred people who turned out to say goodbye to Skeldings School, for its final reunion and official closing, Sunday August 3, 1969.

The old schoolhouse dates back to 1860

SKELDINGS SCHOOL REUNION



For some of the former pupils and teachers at Skelding School memories go back a long way.

Gary Silverthorn came back from Montreal for the occasion.

Left to right:

Gary Silverthorn
Dr. H. E. McKellar
Mrs. Olive Ferguson
Mrs. Herbert Brown
Mrs. Maude McMurray

SKELDINGS SCHOOL REUNION



Mr. John Thomson, Chairman
addressing the gathering.



Former teachers: left to right

- Mrs. Gertrude Davies
- Mrs. Hazel Runions
- Mrs. Beatrice Taylor
- Mrs. Ruby Dundas
- Mrs. Olive Ferguson



Honoured guests: left to right

- Mrs. Hazel (Knott) Parker
- Mrs. Elwood (Edna Knott) Armes
- Gary Silverthorn
- Dr. Ellar McKellar
- Mrs. Herbert (Thompson) Brown
- Mrs. Maud (Jenkins) McMurray
- Mrs. Ruby Dundas
- Mrs. Harold (Sells) Davies
- Mrs. Hazel (Thomson) Runions
- Mrs. Norman (Monck) Taylor
- Mrs. Olive (Weaver) Ferguson



left to right

- Gary Silverthorn, Montreal
- Dr. Ellar McKellar, St. Thomas
- Mrs. Olive Ferguson, Belmont
(oldest teacher)
- Mrs. Herbert Brown, Kingsmill
- Mrs. Maud McMurray, Belmont

SCHOOL SECTION # 23, YARMOUTH

THE "GLEN SCHOOL"

It is believed the original school was built of logs, and located on the corner of Concession 10 and what is now known as Radio Road, on land owned by the Baker family. Little is known of this early school.

The records show that a Crown Deed was given Dec. 15, 1848, for land for a school on the south half of Lot 12, Concession 10, the corner of Angus McIntyre's farm. The first school (?) was a brick structure built in 1849. Among the settlers arriving in the early thirties was John McGregor, who had taught school in Scotland, and no doubt made use of his education here. This part of the Section was known as "Glen Lyon," the McGregor's being responsible for the name - so called for that particular part of Scotland - their former home. Hence the name "Glen School."

It is probable that the land was given by the McIntyre family to the Section. However, from county records under the name of "Award" we find that in 1877 an arbitration board consisting of A. F. Butler, Malcolm McGregor, and Thomas Penhale, reached a decision to pay Donald McIntyre \$15.00 for this piece of property, which consisted of slightly over 10 square rods. This was probably done, so that a record of the transfer of land might be made in the Registry Office.

As far as we have determined, it was the custom for teachers during the period of 1848 to be paid a certain sum for each pupil. This could be paid in many different forms. Maybe it was a bushel of grain, or some garden vegetables. Money was scarce. The teacher boarded in turn at the home of the pupils. There was no privilege of choosing the boarding place given. The families that had the most children boarded the teacher the longest period.

At the time of 1848, the people that were chosen or suggested to be teachers were sent to London, Ont., and were lined up and questioned by the County Superintendent. This was done at intervals to give the necessary credentials. Around the 1860's the teachers "to be" attended the Collegiate in St. Thomas, and then attended a model school in St. Thomas. After three years of teaching, in order to become a qualified teacher, it was necessary to go to the Normal Schhol in Toronto. Later a Normal School came to London. The old model school was eliminated.

A special meeting of the ratepayers was called in June, 1888, to decide whether to repair the schoolhouse or build a new one. It was moved by Mathew Gilbert, and seconded by James Westlake, that the trustees be authorized to thoroughly repair the building. During the summer, \$300.00 was spent on repairs.

It was customary during those early years for the parents of pupils and guests from neighbouring Sections to visit the school and attend Public Examinations, often as many as 70 or more persons registering at these functions. The following is a report of one of those visits, taken from the Visitor's Book of that time: - Quote -

June 20th, 1881.

"Called at the school today, and had the felicity of hearing one of the classes in Grammar; was much pleased with the good attention, and aptitude of the scholars, showing the good training which they have had under Miss Parlee's instruction."

signed: B. Raymour
B. Lewis

In 1884 the teacher's salary was \$350.00, and in 1886 it was \$400.00.

In 1902, \$130.00 was paid in award to S. S. # 18, Yarmouth, for a change of property from S. S. # 23 to S. S. # 18.

On March 14, 1904 a Special Meeting of ratepayers was called to decide whether to repair the old school or build a new one. The trustees, John Gilbert, John J. Smith and Neil C. McIntyre were instructed to build a new school. The plan drawn up by N. R. Darrach, Architect, St. Thomas, was approved, and the contract awarded to Archibald Palmer. Debentures were issued for a term of five years for payment.