



Belmeade - School Section No. 9, approx. 1898.

Osgoode Township Historical Society & Museum

Vernon School
P.O. Box 83 - Vernon, Ontario
K0A 3J0

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The picture shown above of the No. 9 Schoolhouse, was taken from the Archives of the Osgoode Township Historical Society. The school closed in 1964 and is now a residential home situated on the S.W. corner of lot 43, Con 5, Osgoode Township.

THE BELMEADE SCHOOL

Peter McCaul and his wife Grace McDonald moved onto lot 40 concession 5 in the early 1830's. They were in the midst of a Scotch community of young married couples - McDiarmids, Fishers, Fergusons, Campbells, McDonalds, McEwens. The McCauls had a son Donald born in Scotland who would need schooling and there was the very large family of Thomas Campbell from Plantagenet. The first school down in that area had been held in the home of Thomas Campbell. The west corner of the McCaul property seemed a central spot for a community school. Families increased in numbers and children tramped through the bush and crossed the Castor to arrive at school. There were the Irish McKendrys close by, McLaurins, McGregors, and more McDiarmids. My grandfather, "Sandy" Stewart, attended as did his brother and 6 sisters. They had to walk only a mile. My father, Cam, and his younger brothers and sisters walked a little farther. Even in those days, my father was able to pass the entrance at 11 years of age and continue with 5th class under Mr. Waterson.

The village of Vernon got its own school in 1881, but the School Section was still much too large. To settle the matter of dividing the Section and satisfying the many demands from Dalmeny and Mountain, the matter was referred to arbitration in 1896. The Osgoode Inspector, Archibald Smirle, the Mountain Inspector, Arthur Brown, the Osgoode teacher, John Watterson, the Carleton Court Judge Wm. Aird Ross Sr., and Robert B. Hyndman were the arbiters who drew up the boundaries for two School Sections carved out of the old. S. S. #9 Osgoode and #20 Mountain, a Union School, had a new site at Belmeade. S. S. #23 served the Dalmeny area. There were two new schools built and operating in 1898.

In 1903 there was a crisis when some Mountain ratepayers threatened to pull out of the Union Section. The brick school had been built on "The Boundary", lot 43 con 5, then McPhail property, to satisfy Mountain residents. A Petition was sent to the Mountain Council. This Petition was presented to the Society by Lora Carlyle Armstrong. The 26 names follow:

J. D. Campbell	J. L. Campbell	Lorenzo McCaul
T. A. Campbell	John R. Campbell	Howard Craig
T. J. Campbell	Robert McKendry	Hugh Craig
John Campbell	W. J. McKendry	Daniel Campbell
James Clark	George McKendry	Aberham Guy
Daniel Clark	A. Campbell	Robert H. Craig
Janet Clark	James H. Campbell	John H. Craig
Ufany Clark	Jno A. Campbell	H. D. Craig
Robert J. McLaughlin	John McCaul	

Later names that appeared in the Belmeade area were: Acres, Wyatt, Linton, Helmer, Kennedy, McNaughton, Hoy, Dockstader.

My sister, Estella Stuart (McLean), taught 4 years after graduating from Ottawa Normal School in 1924. She rode horseback the 2½ miles when the weather was suitable. At other times she lived with the Kinnairds. Other teachers - incomplete - were Irma Allen, Kathleen Kennedy, Annie McVey (McConnell), Anna Hill, Mrs. Tomlinson, Miss Hillman, Helen Blaie, Edna Saunders, Eric Olsen.

In the archives of our Society we have a postcard sent by Awilda Hoy to her aunt, Mrs. Frank Lutman of Dalmeny. The picture of the school and the pupils is probably one of the first classes.

Ada Dockstader Latour, now of Russell, wrote of her school days -

My first day at Belmeade School my Mother walked to the road with me. There were tears in her eyes when I left her to walk nearly a mile alone to school. A big girl, Lucille Helmer, came to meet me. I always loved her for being so kind. There was a stove in the middle of the room. In the winter we stood round it to get warm after walking to school on a cold day. (Note - Later a furnace in the basement heated the building)

Susie Dalgleish was the teacher in this one-room school teaching primer, first book and up to 4th (eight). Ira Hughes came next. Estella Stuart was my teacher and taught continuation class. I wrote the exam in Winchester. My father, Hudson Dockstader, was a trustee and sang at the Christmas Concert. In the winter, Belmeade School boys played hockey with the Dalmeny boys. My Dad took a sleigh and a team of horses and all who wanted to go. I remember singing - I'm Forever Blowing Bubbles, Bye, Bye Blackbirds, Oh Susanna, Jingle Bells. Oh, with the bells on the horses jingling and the stars in the sky, we thought we had a wonderful time. We had Spelling Bees. On the 24th of May we brought rakes to school and raked the yard. One year we marched in two's to McPhail's Sugar Bush. Steve Kinnaird was the Cheesemaker then. When someone got hurt we went to their house to get bandages or call home. I really loved Mrs. Kinnaird. Their house was at the end of the school yard. After a January thaw, school children came to our place and had a wonderful time skating on the river. Then we had cake and cookies and home-made ice cream.

Ada Dockstader - Mrs. Russell Latour

E.S.S.

HISTORY OF THE SWALE SCHOOL

The Swale School was an ordinary frame schoolhouse and away back in the memory of the oldest inhabitants a school section was formed. A school was erected on Lot 40, fourth concession of Osgoode Township, south of the village of Dalmeny and west of Vernon. The name originated from the nature of the surrounding land.

Some of the teachers were: - Mr. Alex McLaren, Miss Janet McArthur, Mr. Cook, Mr. John Waterson, Mr. S. A. Hitchman, Miss Sadie Richardson and Miss Ida Whiteside.

A pupil by the name of Catherine McDiarmid attended this school in 1840, another pupil by the name of Duncan Ferguson attended in 1850 along with many others. In 1890 there were 46 scholars.

Unfortunately for the school and the peace and goodwill of the neighbourhood the school sat perilously close to the adjacent county of Dundas. This proximity to the inter-township line led to the formation of a union school section, which in turn led to trouble about the location of the school, so the school was built and designed in such a way that the building was movable. The dimensions were 20 x 30 feet.

Its location in Osgoode was perfectly satisfactory to the ratepayers living on the north side of the section. However, it was not satisfactory to the ratepayers on the south side. They felt their children had too far to walk, and if located on the south side the people living on the north felt the same way about their children, so the result was every year when elections of trustees took place there was a disagreement.

When the men on the Mountain Township side won the election they had the school moved near their side, and then the next year should the Osgoode Township side win their election, the school would have to be moved back again. The school then was moved several times. However, there were a few men who felt at that time that there was trouble with the consolidated school project. They tried to establish one large central school in Vernon for the future, to which ratepayers of several neighbouring sections could send the children. This included the union section of Mountain and Osgoode, but before things really materialized other things happened.

The school was being moved to the Osgoode side as they had won their election, when the contractor ran into difficulty and had to leave the school on the roadside for a period of time until he could get better tackle to work with. When the contractor returned the school had burned and nothing was left but ashes.

D. Dockstader, June 1965.

NOTE OF INTEREST

PIONEER DAYS AT THE MUSEUM SATURDAY AUGUST 6

Display of Antique Machinery

Special - Children Activities, Games, Old-time school

Unveiling of a plaque commemorating the first Calf Club of Carleton County.

UNION SCHOOL SECTIONS 24 OSGOODE & 28 GLOUCESTER

by Dorothy Brown

Beginnings

After district residents signed a petition circulated by Mrs. Ben Foster and Mrs. Tom Quaile, an award for this union school was dated December 17, 1903, and signed by R. H. Cowley, Public School Inspector, James L. Rolston of Metcalfe and Robert Hopkins of the Township of Gloucester.

The award stated "We award and adjudge that a union school section shall be formed

of the following lands taken from P.S.S. No. 20 of Gloucester in the 9th concession of Gloucester Township, together with a gore (known as concession 10), in front of the south half of said lots and the following land taken from P.S.S. No. 10 in the Township of Osgoode - lots no 1-5 in concessions 7 and 8 along with W ½ of lots 1-5 in the 9th concession. The union school section hereby formed shall be known as Union School Section No 28 Gloucester and No 24 Osgoode".

It was signed and sealed in the presence of Donald H. MacLean of the city of Ottawa.

The agreement was signed on July 6, 1904 by James Conlon, Robert Scarfe and Wilson Stewart as first trustees. The deed for the acre of land bought from Thomas Quaile was dated August 2, 1904. This lot was situated on the corner of County Road 8 and the 8th Line Road of Osgoode.

CONSTRUCTION

The trustees granted the building of the school to James P. Grant and Charles R. Clark, contractors from Metcalfe, for the sum of \$949.00. The contract stated that the work was to be completed by October 1, 1904. In the event the contractors failed to complete the work within the time allowed, they were to forfeit \$2.00 per day.

SCHOOL OPENING

The school opened on October 4, 1904 with Miss Jean McGee as teacher. Mr. R. H. Cowly was inspector at that time. Names of trustees who served during the first decades include Jas Quaile, J. W. Boothe, Arthur Quaile and Arthur Rodney. The salary of the first secretary-treasurer was \$10.00 per year. Arthur Armstrong held this position from 1915 until 1951.

HISTORICAL NOTES

According to the minutes of the annual meeting for 1923, Ansley Quaile was authorized to supply paint and brush to pain the closets for \$10.00; the caretaker's wages were \$95.00 and the secretary-treasurer received \$20.00 for the year. However, during the depression years of the early thirties, these salaries were reduced to \$50.00 for caretaker, and \$10.00 for secretary-treasurer.

The school received hydro in 1947 and later on an oil burner replaced the old wood stove.

TEACHERS

Scores of children learned their "a, b, c's" in this typical one room school over a period of sixty years. During this time there were 45 teachers. Mrs. Ida Reaney, teaching for 17 years, holds the record for the longest period.

Mrs. Diane (Hall) Wade was teacher when the school closed in 1965. On July 3, 1954, many former pupils and teachers returned for a fiftieth anniversary reunion, organized by the residents of the school section.

That new school in Edwards was closed a few years later. Now pupils living in this area attend schools in Metcalfe.

The property was bought by Dave Mackie, the building demolished and a house now replaces the former landmark.

CURATOR REPORT - Ann Leighton-Kyle

We have been fortunate to share some interesting papers and correspondence of Bessie Howes Windsor who has been enthusiastically researching her ancestors. She has been trying to organize her Howes family which overlaps into the Sheldrick, Woods and Otto families. She lives in the immediate vicinity of her great-grandfather's land (W ½ lot 16 and 17, conc 7) which has been continually occupied by the Howes since the 1830's. She shares correspondence between her uncles dated June 19, 1879. Alonzo Howes in Winnipeg writes to his brother Lewis in Metcalfe. He describes how he is looking for work and the prospects available. One prospect, to which he is reluctant to take, is going to Minnesota to hay. However, when he returns he thinks he has a good possibility to get on at McAuley and Jarvis Mills. This same Alonzo was a tanner who settled in New Osgoode, Saskatchewan and leaves his mark in a still standing 2-storey log house. A portion of his letter to brother Lewis is as follows:

I wish you had been here one day last week if it was only for half an hour there was about 20 Indians mounted on native ponies came into town they were tatooed in all colours and with the strange clothes that they wore ornamented with bears claws and all kind of trinkets and weasle skins tied on their heds they were quite a sight to look at and they had their music with small drums they would get on to the platform and then would beat on their drums with little sticks and dance to the tune and whoop. After which the medicine man would pass round a hat for collection. The amount of buffalo robes and small fur that comes into Winnipeg would astonish how the traders brings from 15 - 20 cartloads in a string and only 3 to 4 men driving them. We got a job onloading 17 cartloads of fur at 20 cts per hour and the next day the man got us to help unpack them there was eleven hundred buffalo robes besides a quantity of small furs. When you write please let us know if the grass took on that field and I would like to know how many horses you have

by this time and how they are getting along Give my love to Father and all the rest, so goodby

From your Affectionate brother
Alonzo Howes

1872 RULES

FOR

TEACHERS

1. Teachers each day will fill lamps, clean chimneys.
2. Each teacher will bring a bucket of water and a scuttle of coal for the day's session.
3. Make your pens carefully. You may whittle nibs to the individual taste of the pupils.
4. Men teachers may take one evening each week for courting purposes, or two evenings a week if they go to church regularly.
5. After ten hours in school, the teachers may spend the remaining time reading the Bible or other good books.
6. Women teachers who marry or engage in unseemly conduct will be dismissed.
7. Every teacher should lay aside from each day pay a goodly sum of his earnings for his benefit during his declining years so that he will not become a burden on society.
8. Any teacher who smokes, uses liquor in any form, frequents pool or public halls, or gets shaved in a barber shop will give good reason to suspect his worth, intention, integrity and honesty.
9. The teacher who performs his labor faithfully and without fault for five years will be given an increase of twenty-five cents per week in his pay, providing the Board of Education approves.

PART I. - Persons entitled to vote at both Municipal Elections and Elections to the Legislative Assembly.

231	j	Burns, Thomas	pt s hf 13 and op	2	mf and o	4
340	j	Burns, William	s hf 11	3	mf and o	3
256	j	Brennan, Bernard	n hf 23 and s hf 23 ...	2	mf and o	5
157	j	Brennan, John J	s hf 23 and s hf 24 ...	2	mf and o	5
258		Brennan, William	n hf 23	2	mf and fs	5
356	j	Doyle, Andrew	e hf 17	3	mf and fs	4
355	j	Doyle, Sylvester S.....	e hf 17	3	mf and fs	4
101	j	Doyle, William	n hf 18 and op	1	mf and o	23
112	j	Doyle, Patrick	n hf 20	1	mf and o	12
117	j	Daly, Matthew	n hf 21	1	mf and o	2
229		Diamond, Henry	n hf 13	2	mf and o	23
241		Dewan, Patrick, sr	e hf 17 and op	2	mf and o	23
242	j	Dewan, John	e hf 17	2	mf and fs	23
245	j	Doyle, Martin	n hf 19	2	mf and o	4
114	j	Doyle, James	n hf 20	2	mf and fs	2
346	j	Daley, John	sw qs 14	3	mf and o	4
347	j	Daley, Michael	se qr 14	3	mf and o	4
352		Doyle, Andrew	n hf 16	3	mf and o	4
354	j	Doyle, Moses	s hf 16 and op	3	mf and o	4
357	j	Dewan, Patrick	w hf 17 and op	3	mf and o	4
449	j	Daley, Terrance	s hf 12 and op	4	mf and fs	4
448	j	Daley, James	n hf 12 and op	4	mf and o	4
457	j	Daley, Peter	s hf 15	4	mf and o	4
466	j	Deveraux, Thos. P.....	23	4	mf and fs	4
462	j	Devhiaux, John	n hf 21	4	mf and o	4
465	j	Deveraux, Edward	23	4	mf and o	4
230		Diamond, Hugh	n hf 13	2	mf and o	23
247	j	Doyle, John	n hf 19	2	mf and fs	4
248	j	Doyle, Patrick	n hf 19	2	mf and fs	4
228	j	Diamond, John	n hf 13	2	mf and o	23
113		Doyle, Anthony	n hf 20	1	mf and fs	2
246		Doyle, James	n hf 19	2	mf and fs	4
1417		Doyle, Chas	s hf 16	3	mf and fs	4
231	j	Early, William	s pt 13	2	mf and o	4
342	j	Evans, Patrick	s e pt 12	3	mf and o	4
251		Everts, Daniel	n e pt w hf 21	2	mf and o	4
122		Ferguson, Forest	s hl 23	1	mf and fs	2