

Feb. 15, 1935

Grafton Historical Notes

(14) By T. R. M.

The following document, now in possession of Miss M. L. Rogers, a great-grand-daughter of David MacGregor Rogers, one of the three trustees, throws light on the early educational history of Haldimand (Grafton).

"Whereas the subscribers are desirous of having a school kept in the school house on Lot 25 in the first concession of the Township of Haldimand, and have at a meeting of the Proprietors of the School-house appointed Freeman Clark, Richard Hare, and David M. Rogers Trustees of the said school, who in consequence of such appointment have engaged the Rev. Robert Sheriff to keep the said school for three months to commence on the tenth day of this present month of April at the rate of fifteen dollars per month, and the subscribers to find the said teacher with sufficient and decent board, washing and lodging during the said term, the said payments to be made in Merchantable Produce of the Country at the fair market price. Now we the subscribers so hereby promise to pay or cause to be paid to the said trustees our just proportion of the said wages and expense of boarding according to the number of scholars set opposite our names or should more be sent according to the time we send to the said school, and we also further agree that we will each of us upon application from the Trustees furnish our just proportion of wood or other necessarys that may be wanted for the said school. In witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands the 8th day of April 1820."

"D. McG. Rogers, No. S., two; S. Green, one; Thomas M. Spalding, No. S., two; Daniel Purdy, two; Freeman Clark, two; Lothrop Smith, 1½; Richard Hare, two; H. Rutlan, one; David Stafford, one; Jas. Drinkwater, one; John Hare, one; Ezra Burbank ½; Jacob Clement (?), one; John Grover, one; John Clark, two;

stood near the road leading to "Woodside," north of the present highway. As to its subsequent history or its first teacher, the Rev. Robert Sheriff, nothing further is known. Sheriff was probably a Presbyterian "domine."

In 1833 there is record of Church of England services being held in the school house in Grafton, this building being the regular place for such services until the erection of St. George's Church in 1844. It is not known when this second school was built, but it stood by the highway close to the site of the present church. Among the church papers is an old receipt reading as follows: "Received from the Church Wardens of St. George's Church, Grafton, the sum of ten shillings for making preparations for removing school house.

Haldimand, Dec. 8th., 1849.
David M. Peters."

In the Church accounts under the date May 13, 1850 there is an item of £5, 10s, paid to Robert Litster for removing the school house.

The exact location of the third school house is unknown, but Mr. Hugh Ross states that it stood near the property of Mr. Justin Lapp, now tenanted by Mr. Cecil Royal. It was a frame building and was subsequently incorporated into a barn. It is conjectured that it was built some years previous to the removal of the school on the church property and is probably the school referred to in the following letter, from the "Star" of February 1849.

Grafton Common School
Mr. Editor:—Permit me through the medium of your useful journal to notice briefly the very satisfactory examination of the Common School in this village, which took place yesterday in the presence of several school visitors, as well as parents and others, interested in the onward progress of a sound and efficient system of popular education. There are

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1. When an engine broken is it permitted to ask the man or son?

2. Should an employer give a bird to her employer a bird?

3. What arm should his partner when in the dining-room?

4. Does the husband kiss his wife at a ball, or

5. Is it ill-bred, when a kind of game, to questioner's skill?

6. Which is correct, "My dear Sir"?

7. When giving an affair to several friends, at about what time should the hostess invite her dining-room?

8. How are guests christening?

9. What kind of a man wear at a formal

10. What is the bachelor to entertain have frequently entertained their homes?

11. Should a wedding and an invitation be the same person?

12. At what age should girls be introduced

13. At what age should a person be permitted from home over night

14. What should a person or napkin be dropped table?

15. Is it still customary black-edged mourning

16. Is an entire

World's Day Prayer

Local Women Will Celebrate on the Second March

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Under the terms of the Common School Bill of 1816, legislative aid was granted to each District for the building of Common Schools, £400 being allotted to the Newcastle district. As Haldimand was the home of the local Member of the Assembly it is probable that a school was built even earlier than this. The wording of the above document would lead one to believe that the school had been built previous to 1820, but, in any case, it is the earliest school building of which any record remains. The salary, apparently paid "in kind" makes an interesting comparison with the present day teacher's salary. The list of subscribers contains the names of those men with growing families who lived at or near Haldimand in 1820. The "½" under the number of scholars may refer to a young child able to attend only part time. It casts no reflection on the pupil's mental capacity! The school building, doubtless built of logs, probably

sequently incorporated into a barn. It is conjectured that it was built some years previous to the removal of the school on the church property and is probably the school referred to in the following letter, from the "Star" of February 1849.

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Mr. Editor:—Permit me through the medium of your useful journal to notice briefly the very satisfactory examination of the Common School in this village, which took place yesterday in the presence of several school visitors, as well as parents and others, interested in the onward progress of a sound and efficient system of popular education. There are upwards of 50 scholars attending this school, and it was most gratifying to find the great improvement they all exhibited in the various branches of learning taught them by their able and most indefatigable teacher, Mr. Watson (lately from the Manual School, Toronto) who has been only 3 months in charge. The new and much improved system of teaching introduced by him has already produced the most admirable and beneficial results! And without in any degree attempting to exaggerate the superiority of the new over the old mode of communicating instruction, I will venture to affirm that under such teachers as Mr. Watson, a greater amount of sound and useful learning can be acquired in three months than can be had by children attending a great proportion of our Common schools as they are now, for as many years.

Grafton, 9th., February, 1849.

We, whose names are subscribed, have this day examined the school taught by Mr. Wm. Watson, in School Section No. 2. We were highly satisfied with the appearance of the School, and with the spirit and accuracy with which the scholars went through the various exercises. Mr. Watson evidently devotes much attention to the scholars committed to his care, and particularly to their intellectual improvement. They were examined in geography, the elements of mechanics, natural history, grammar, and mathematics, besides the more common branches.

Wm. Reid, Min. of Presbyterian Church, Amos Moore, D.C., John Steele, J.P.

A Visitor."

**Pleasant Farewell
 Given to Port
 Hope Citizens**

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**World's Day
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**Local Women Will C
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 March**

A committee of w
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 met last week, to pla
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 the World's Day of

This service is arra
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The regular prog

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