

# Class Of 1894 At Precious Corners School

# Thirty Ye



Shown above in this picture of Precious Corners School in 1894 are Miss Nellie Dixon, teacher; back row, left to right: Eva Davey, Ada Raby, Hannah Nelson, Ida Davey, Mary C. Raby, Miss Dixon, Sylvia Nicholls, Lily Bell, Edith Crossen, Bertha Westington, Ethel Raby.

Centre row: Mabel Rowe, Lena Raby, Luel Davey. Front row: Ella Davey, George Raby, Will Raby, Albert Bell, Albert Raby, Albert Rowe, Will Nicholls, Allen Nicholls, Grandy Nicholls, Alice Lucas.

— (Photo contributed)

## CHANGING FACE OF EDUCATION

# Precious Memories Of Precious Corners Beyond The Affluence Of The New School

Dale Road School at Precious Corners, with its pastel colored rooms and tile floor, was decided to build a new school more to centre of No. 10. At one particularly icy time, one man with heavily loaded cords of this hardwood (many open cracks in the firebox and

December 12, 1935

Petit Jury at Counties Court was composed of T. J. Crowley, Cramahe; Percy Wade, Murray; H. Davidson, Manners; P. Brackenbury, Charles Blodgett, Haldimand; H. Hugh, Port Hope; Alfred Barton, Cobourg; John Greer, Wesley Hoskin, Cartwright; M. Aldred, Newcastle; H. Ireland, Brighton; Bert Wiley, Murray—one case was Stone vs. Fitzhugh, where the John E. Stones claimed \$750 damages from Henry Fitzhugh of Louisville, alleging there was an agreement to lease and rent him a house on the north side of King for the summer and he failed to carry out agreement; A. Cochrane for plaintiffs, Armstrong and Willmott for defendant.

Grand Jury, James Roddy, Eric McLean, Cavan; John Byers, Hamilton; R. F. Beatty, Hope; Walter Copeland, John Cook, Port Hope; J. L. Doherty, Hastings; James Dillon, Cobourg; Peter Fairman, Percy; Charles Fisher, South Monaghan; B. Fitchett, Cramahe; L. Mountjoy, Cartwright; George Vardey, Murray. Percy Stinson, Warden and Counties Clerk E. L. MacNachtan selected jurors. Presented for naturalization were Heinrich Herman, Germany, and Charles Pappa, Turkey, from Cobourg.

Speakers at Kiltie Band dinner were J. P. Delanty, Joseph Goldring, Dave Hill, Arthur Cauley, Harold Worth, George Page, H. J. Staples.

Cobourg Old Boys' Association donated \$104 to town relief; present were H. Mc

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right: Eva Davey, Ada Raby, Hannah Nelson, Ida Davey, Mary C. Raby, Miss Dixon, Sylvia Nicholls, Lily Bell, Edith Crossen, Bertha Westington, Ethel Raby.

Bell, Albert Raby, Albert Rowe, Will Nicholls, Allen Nicholls, Grandy Nicholls, Alice Lucas.  
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## CHANGING FACE OF EDUCATION

# Precious Memories Of Precious Corners Beyond The Affluence Of The New School

Dale Road School at Precious Corners, with its pastel colored rooms, vinyl tile flooring and fluorescent lighting, has replaced the old Precious Corners school, and the wood or coal burning stoves and other inconveniences. In the new modern school eight grades have six teachers, instead of eight grades with one teacher. To further emphasize the trend in rural schools, pupils will no longer walk a mile or two to school; in good weather or bad weather, nowadays big heated buses carry all the children to school leaving home early in the morning and return their charges home in the same way.

Miss Ada J. Raby of Cobourg has vivid memories of the old school at Precious Corners, where she and her brother Bill and sisters were pupils. Mary C. Raby, one of the sisters shown in the class of 1894, also appears in the 1935 picture, this time as the teacher. Mary Raby taught there first in 1912-1918 and returned after three years to continue teaching 1921 to June, 1939.

### Ada Raby Reminisces

The first school on the second concession for No. 10 district school section was located in the field to the south of Bethesda Church, but near the sideroad and on the same lot was an Anglican Church. The entrance to both of these buildings was from the side road now closed. The Anglican Church was torn down and

was decided to build a new school more to centre of No. 10 section, on land donated by Henry Precious, father of Joe Precious and grandfather of (Florrie) Mrs. Herb Bell.

Henry Precious owned the farmland from the creek easterly to what is now No. 18 County Road hence the name Precious Corners.

The brick for this school was hauled by teams from the brick kiln at Hull's Corners.

Being on the edge of a harmless quiet summer creek, many happy hours were spent paddling, swimming and fishing along the banks. But in the spring when snow was melting, it became a dangerous stream, and many warnings were given pupils by teachers and parents; warnings not to play around this creek while floods were on, but with all of the warnings much wet clothing and footgear had to be dried by teachers and parents.

The hill to the west of the school, when snow covered, was a fine spot for hand sleigh-riding, each family trying to outdo the others. This competition depended on the father, whatever his ability for construction of hand sleighs, in appearance, size and speed, as all sleighs were handmade and metal runners were put on by the blacksmith Mark Manley, whose shop was on the corner of 3rd concession and what is now No. 18 County Road. (Mark Manley at one time had charge of the post

At one particularly icy time one man with heavily loaded sleigh, having a very difficult time trying to get up the hill with a load of grain, threatened to horse whip all the pupils if he caught them sleigh-riding on that hill again. While the juniors were much upset by this threat, the older ones were not alarmed and continued this sport. Only soft snow or too much sunshine curbed the sleigh-riding.

When the school was built the only exit from Bethesda Church east for half-a-mile was a foot path, and to cross the creek in this area there were two planks anchored at one end. In the Spring when water was high the big boys carried the small pupils and girls across these swaying planks to go on their way to and from school. Then as now, there was a crossroad connecting the 3rd concession at the eastern side of lot 23 with Danforth Road.

### Wood Stove In 1865

The first heating for this new 1865 school was a large iron stove, set near the back of the school, this stove kept the school moderately warm, when supplied with best type of wood, beech and maple, which was plentiful, and was stored in an open shed at the north of the building. This shed was also a wind break for the school.

The fire was tended and lit by big boys and the teacher. The latter at that time was caretaker, teacher, disciplinar-

cords of this hardwood (many open cracks in the firebox and one broken leg) the trustees decided in 1895 to install a coal heater. The tinsmith from Cobourg brought the stove and set it in place. Soon the coal fire had warmed the school, and after giving all instructions to the teacher and older pupils, on how to keep the fire on overnight and weekends, the tinsmith departed, but alas the coal stove did not respond to amateur tending and was frequently a cold heater and cold school.

On one particularly cold day when the teacher went out for lunch, the big boys in their late teens set the cold coal stove to one side; brought in from the outside the old cracked wood stove with the broken leg and made a fire and had the school warm when the teacher returned from lunch.

### Coal Stove vs. Wood

Naturally the trustees were not pleased because they had spent money for the new stove and coal, as well as having a carpenter erect a new closed shed to cover the coal and light wood necessary to start this coal fire.

This being before the age of telephones, the trustees had to drive to Cobourg to see the tinsmith, who again came to school and after putting the coal stove back in place, lit the fire and again gave very minute instructions on how to kindle and keep this new stove going and have a fire over week-

son, Warden and Counties Clerk E. L. MacNachtan selected jurors. Presented for naturalization were Heinrich Herman, Germany, and Charles Pappa, Turkey, from Cobourg.

Speakers at Kiltie Band dinner were J. P. Delanty, Joseph Goldring, Dave Hill, Arthur Cauley, Harold Worth, George Page, H. J. Staples.

Cobourg Old Boys' Association donated \$104 to town relief; present were H. McGuire, Mayor Delanty, Mrs. H. Delaney, Jack Ewart, Judd Kennedy, H. O. Taylor, M. McEntee, B. Kernaghan, Roy Dodge.

Dominion Wheel and Foundries Ltd. could be affected by fire at P. Payette Co. plant when valuable patterns were said to have been destroyed. Witnesses said there must have been something terribly wrong with a 1925 appraisal of patterns, \$36,500 or wrong with Payette proof of loss given to insurance company in 1935 valuing patterns at \$105,000 and claiming \$83,000.

Colonel Robert F. Massie, DSO, died at 56. In 1903 he married Isobel Covert and they had a summer home in Cobourg; surviving were his widow, sons J. H. Covert Massie, R. H. Lorimer Massie, H. Douglas C. Massie, a sister Elizabeth E. Massie.

President of Ontario Associated Boards of Trade and Chambers of Commerce, Russell T. Kelley wrote to the Sentinel-Star advising against a second highway near Cobourg, saying a similar project drew business away from oth-

Precious Corners School trustees in 1864 were Richard Benson and Charlie Stiles. As far as Miss Raby knows these were the first two trustees. In 1895 Edwin Davey, Nathan Nicholls, William Raby were



Church was torn down and bricks were brought to Cobourg by team and sleighs and used in construction of new Sunday School for St. Peter's Church in 1891.

In 1864-65 the school on this lot was badly in need of repair, and as a school was being built one and-a-half miles to the west, Bissell's school, it

time had charge of the post office there, his sons were Hilton and Clifford, daughter was Mrs. H. Landymore).

**Steep Hill Was Slippery**

With all this traffic of hand sleighs, the hill became smooth and very treacherous for folks with teams and sleighs with heavy loads trying to drive up and down.

caretaker, teacher, disciplinarian and general custodian, and it must always be remembered to have dry kindling ready to start fires on cold mornings. There was no fire from Friday to Monday, so the building was surely very cold and took many hours to warm up to comfortable temperature, but at last after burning many

ing and have a fire over weekends and the school warm on Monday as well as all week. This time the instructions were heeded by the teacher and pupils and there was no further trouble for many years.

**School Inspectors**

At that time appointed by the County, one of the earliest public school inspectors was said to be Mr. E. Scarlet, for many years followed by Alfred Odell, then after World War 1, Col. John Odell; when John Odell was forced by ill health to retire, Col. E. E. Snider of Port Hope was inspector from 1934-1939, then J. McConnell, Harry Carlton, G. W. Nelson. After Mr. Carlton's appointment the inspectorate was divided to separate east and west Durham, also east and west Northumberland.

The first teacher at the Precious Corners School was a Mr. McCullough, followed by David Roberts. Robert Thompson taught in 1889; other teachers in order of service were Sarah Yeamen, Jennie Boyd, Nellie Dixon, Laura Nixon, John Piper, Mabel Philps, Hattie Yale, May Bolster, Mina Peters, David Burnham, Pearl Macdonald, Miss Mickeljohn, Olive Cobbledick, Miss Walsh, Mary C. Raby, Alma Johnston, James Carr, Tressa Flannigan, Mary C. Raby, Willa Davey, Mrs. M. L. Barry, Theodora Hartford, Georgena Cole, Shirley Wallace, Mrs. Whitney Davidson, Mrs. J. Minifie. Mrs. Minifie is continuing to teach in the new school with five more teachers.

After 1930 school inspectors were appointed by the Department of Education, Queen's Park,

Nicholls, William Raby were trustees.

A new teacher was needed in 1895, and the trustees had received an application at a salary of \$300. The trustees met one night in the school to discuss this, but one of the trustees wouldn't offer more than \$250, so the trustees were getting ready to go home, and one of them, Mr. Raby, suggested that perhaps they would offer \$275. This met with the approval of the other two trustees and Laura Nixon was hired at the princely sum of \$275 per year.

Music teachers at Precious Corners School have been Beatrice McClelland, Ina Rosevear, T. W. Stanley, Mrs. George Campbell, W. Ramsay, Marie Philp, Irene Harris, Mrs. Don Lang (Marie Philp).

Some of the later trustees were Melville Westington, Wesley Watt, James Russell, Fred Bell, Joseph Rowe, Herbert Holdsworth, Fred Nixon, Walter Harper, Edward Budd, Mark Manley, Albert Hoskin, James Behan, Sr., William Harris, W. G. Raby, Robert McCullaugh, Roy Cochrane, Luther Davey, William Watt, Hilton Eagleson, Whitney Davidson, Albert Bell, Elmer Lytle, James Behan, Jr., R. Kennedy, Milton Harris, George Drury, Edgar Davey, S. Macklin, H. Avery, A. Parker, A. Davey, Orville McClelland, D. Moore, Cluff, Ewart King, W. Munroe, Lorne Cole, M. Inch, W. Arnold, Meredith Harper, Ed McGuire.

The 1966 Trustees for the new school are R. E. Drope, J. D. Seymour, G. K. Sherwin, Cliff Hie, J. W. Burt.

**SS10 Hamilton Township, 1935 Class**



Left to right — back row: Reta Davey, Lydia Cochrane, Bertha Davey, Helen Davey, M. C. Raby (teacher), Gordon Sherwin, Kenneth Maguire, Mrs. Orville McClelland (Music Supervisor), Ernest Davey, Merwin Cochrane, Cameron Bell.

Left to right — front row: Alice Sherwin, Doris Davey, William Harris, Max Moore, Keith Cochrane, Beverly Davey, Howard Davey, Edgar Davey, Robert Sherwin.

— (Photo contributed)