

THE ARNPRIOR GRAMMAR SCHOOL 1865-1922 - Continued

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Wilson Bangs, Zebba Bangs, Blanche Blaisdell, Harriet Blaisdell, Armon Burwash, Edgar Burwash, John Burwash, Archie Campbell, Lucy Carss, James Craig, Martha Dean, Augusta Hackett, Emma Hackett, Nellie Hackett, Isabella Jane Halliday, James Halliday, Mary Jane Heath, Dugald Keddie, Kate Leishman, John Lindsay, Mauray Mackie, Hugh McDiarmid, Kate McDiarmid, Isabella McFarlane, William McKay, William McKay, Jessie McLachlin, Mary McLachlin, Kate McPhee, William McConnor, Mary Kate Rowe -- 12 boys and 18 girls. Much water has gone under the bridge since these thirty young people came under Mr. Muir's guidance, and his reminiscences of some of them make interesting reading. "Zebba Bangs was a clever girl, but with a spice of the devil in her, which it was not easy at all times to restrain; Harriette Blaisdell, a tall girl with corkscrew ringlets almost to her shoulders; Augusta, Emma and Nellie Hackett, three refined southern girls who, with their mother and their father, an Anglican Clergyman, came to Arnprior at the outbreak of the American Civil War. Jessie McLachlin, now the wife of the Rev. John Osborne, in Honolulu; John Lindsay, a son of the Rev. Peter Lindsay, and perhaps the brightest boy in the school; Jamie Craig, the orator of the school, a rather delicate and very sensitive lad, but lovable withal, who afterwards graduated at McGill University, studied Law, became a distinguished Judge at Dawson, in the Yukon, retired some years ago, and now lives in Toronto.

From August to December 1865 Mr. Muir and his students occupied a room on the west side of a partition running across the lower flat of what is now known as "The Old Public School Building". at the north-east corner of Ottawa and Hamilton Streets -- the entrance being from Harriett Street. From January to July 1866, the Grammar School occupied the upper flat, which was used on Sunday for the services of the Anglican Church -- the lower flat being used by the Public School children with Mr. James McLaughlin as Headmaster, and Miss Pettypiece as his Assistant. "Mr. McLaughlin, poor fellow, walked with crutches, was a man with more than ordinary ability and literary tastes, and afterwards became a reporter and subeditor on the Montreal Star".

In the Grammar School there was a Junior and a Senior Division. The Juniors continued the study of subjects already taken up in the Public School and also had lessons in Drawing; whilst the Seniors were started in Latin Grammar, Caesar's Commentaries, French, Algebra and Geometry -- or "Euclid", as it was then called.

As there was only one Master for both classes, one class prepared its lessons whilst the other was up for recitation. Some of the Seniors were nearly as old as Mr. Muir himself, but his accurate scholarship, keen sense of humour, and absolute fairness won the unswerving loyalty of all who had the good fortune to be associated with him.