

THE ARNPRIOR GRAMMAR SCHOOL 1865-1922 - Continued

WILLIAM CANTLEY MIDDLETON

In accordance with the Act of 1871, the name of the Arnprior Grammar School was changed to that of "The Arnprior High School". The third Headmaster was Mr. William Cantley Middleton, B.A., who graduated from the University of Toronto in 1871, and was engaged "As Headmaster of the High School and Principal of the Public School, at a salary of Seven Hundred Dollars per annum". For a year and a half, his class room was upstairs in the addition built at the east end of the "Old Public School", His students remember him as "A great mathematician, and a fair classical scholar." but say that he would have been a much more efficient teacher if he had been a little more sympathetic in his attitude towards them, and had not indulged in such biting sarcasm when their recitations did not come up to the standard expected.

From August to December 1872, Mr. Middleton had an Assistant Master in the person of Mr. John Reid Ross, B.A., who graduated from Queen's in 1862. Before coming here he was Assistant Master in the Iroquois High School; where he taught from January to June 1872 for the princely sum of \$122.80. For the four months he was in Arnprior the salary paid him was \$250. After leaving here, no record has been found of him except that in 1872 he received his B.A. degree (ad eudem) from Victoria University, which was then situated in Cobourg, Ont.

THE FIRST LADY TEACHER - In January 1873, Miss Emily R. Patterson was appointed Assistant to Mr. Middleton, and taught during the entire calendar year for the sum of \$250. She then taught for a few months in the Arnprior Public School, and shortly afterwards married the late R. B. Whyte, of Ottawa.

In January 1873 the High School students were again crowded out of the Public School, and took up quarters in a frame building facing on Albert Street, and formerly occupied by the Wesleyan Methodist Church. It stood about fifty yards east of the present Methodist Church, and the entrance to the grounds was from John Street.

From January to July 1874, the Assistant Master was Mr. John Scott, B.A., who graduated from the University of Toronto in 1868, and is described by one of his students as "A very severe man, who literally pounded Latin into our heads".

From August to December 1874, the Assistant Master was Mr. William John Gibson, B.A., who had just graduated from Queen's University, and left here to accept a position on the staff of the Renfrew High School, where he remained for four or five years. In 1881 he obtained his M.D. degree, and in 1882 his M.A. degree from Queen's. For many years he was one of Belleville's leading physicians, and died there in October 1920.