

THE ARNPRIOR GRAMMAR SCHOOL 1865-1922 - Continued

In September 1874 an outbreak of smallpox in houses near the school facing on Albert Street drove the High School teachers and students into temporary quarters in the Council Chamber of the Old Town Hall, at the north west corner of Victoria and Hugh Streets. In November lodgement was found in a small frame building still standing on the west side of Hugh Street, about fifty yards south of Victoria Street. It was formerly used as a Post Office, and during the two years that the High School remained there the upper flat was used as a Lodge Room.

From January to July 1875, the Assistant Master was Mr. John Houston; an undergraduate of the University of Toronto who filled the position of Principal of the Arnprior Public School during the year 1874, before joining the High School staff. His students remember him as, "A very fine man in every way". In October 1875 he returned to the University of Toronto to complete his Arts course, and obtained his B.A. degree in 1877. Since then he has taught in many High Schools in Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan, and is now the veteran Principal of the High School at Oakville, Man.

From August 1875 to July 1876, the Assistant Master was Mr. William Mundell, B.A. (Queen's) who then studied Law and now has a good practice in his native city of Kingston, Ontario.

A PERMANENT ABODE

During the first ten and a half years of its existence, the Arnprior High School was quartered in no less than eight different buildings and had eight different teachers. To put an end to this "wandering around in the wilderness", the Board of Education decided to take vigorous action. Accordingly on the 2nd of February 1875, a Committee consisting of Dr. J.G. Cranston, Chairman of the Board of Education, Mr. George Craig, Secretary, and Mr. John Tierney, Treasurer, was charged with the duty of "selecting a suitable site and style of school to be built, and to report to this Board at its next regular meeting, or at any special meeting called for that purpose". The two lots chosen were those upon which the present High School building stands, near the north west corner of Ottawa and Hugh Streets. On the 23rd day of June 1875, a contract for the erection of a handsome four-roomed brick building designed by Architect Hodgson was let to Messrs. Stafford, McCreedy and McMartin, who were to get \$6,212 for the work, and completed it before the end of December.

In January 1876, Mr. Middleton, Mr. Mundell, and the students left the "The Old Post Office" on Hugh Street and took up permanent abode in the new building - only two rooms downstairs being used at first.

In August 1876 Miss Victoria Davidson was transferred from the Public School to the High School staff, and proved a most acceptable teacher until she resigned in December 1877, but there does not seem to be any further record of her.