

An old schoolhouse

of frame

Submitted by Robert Crerar of Chesley

North of Chesley, in Bruce County,
Stood an old schoolhouse of frame.
In a splendid farming district
Where brave men and women came
In the forties and the fifties
To make for themselves a name.

This School was a Union Section
Since homes in both Bruce and Grey
Came together for their children
That they might not fall a prey
To an education hodge-podge
Down life's ever winding way.

Here the Hares, Buggs and Thomsons,
Maxwells, Blacks, McKinnons too,
Legges, McDonalds, Kyles and Oswalds
Pollocks, Moores and Ewarts grew--
Helped to build a County famous
Line the old up with the new.

The McCannells live here also
In the piping days of old
And the Steinhoffs, Orrs and Caldwells,
Crerars and McNeils, all told,
When there were no jets or autos
And no world wars hot or cold.

Boys and girls were those of promise,
Them through all age groups we taught,
For four years saw them make progress
As they climbed to higher levels
And fame to their County brought.

This wood fabric stood for decades
But as years rolled on space
Built their war a modern structure
With a new brick look and face
On this old well know corner
That looks earth beyond and space.

New techniques and teachers' Unions
And wage schedules at long last
Should indeed prove a great blessing
Not as in the uphill past
When our teachers taught for nothing--
Slaves to every whim and blast.

All these names and others also
Writ large in our country's lore
Shall live on as we more mighty
Grow from sea to sea and shore--
Roll our rugged frontier northward
Where our future is in store.

So with plant anew and faces
And a past historic bright
Coupled with a vision splendid
Wherein might is built on right
The new school should like the olden
Help bring in the larger light.

But we ask where are the children
Whom we taught long years ago?
Echo answers some still linger
On this mundane orb below,
While gone others have far Westward
Where Valhalla waters flow.

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