

THE RED SCHOOL (S.S.#3 Ameliasburg)

According to records, in the year 1827, Elias Alley gave the east half of Lot 86, in the first concession of Ameliasburg, on which was to be erected a building to be used as a school, also for Divine worship whenever any minister of any Christian denomination wished to use it.

John Babcock, Francis Weese and James Andrews were chosen as trustees to superintend the erection of the building. In 1911 a quarter of an acre off the southwest corner of Lot 85 was bought from Corintha Moore for the sum of \$100.00. The trustees at that time were William Earl Weese, George Washington Weese and Elijah Russell. These two parcels of land make up the present school grounds.

Timber for the first school was cut from the land donated by Elias Alley. This timber was floated down the river to Kingston where it was sawed into lumber for the floor, walls and benches. Apparently this first school was a very crude affair, with a roof thatched with marsh grass.

The first teacher was John Smith. The next teacher was Abijah Benedict. In 1872 the school was plastered by Mr. Thomas McMurter who received ten dollars for the job. By 1877 the value of the site, school, furniture, maps etc was recorded as \$500.00

Apparently it received its name "Red School" from the fact that in 1895 it was repaired, clapboarded and painted red. Gradually from 1890 to 1896 desks took the place of the old benches (the last of these benches were taken out in 1942) In 1892 a new floor was laid, the cost of the work being one dollar and a quarter.

There are no records of teachers' salaries before 1863 when J. E. Embury received the salary of \$202.50. In 1871 the salary fell to \$180. paid to Alice O. Mercer. From 1871 to 1918 salaries seem to have gradually risen until in 1918 Helen Dempsey received \$650.00. Earlier records mention the janitor receiving the wood ashes as his pay.

In January 1959 the new two room Albury Public School opened. This was the first area school in Ameliasburg Township, and was a union of SS No. 3 and SS No. 4. Thursday in 1959 the "Red School" ceased to function as a school. It was still used however for community euchre parties, quiltings and meetings.

In 1964 the new Albury composite school became so overcrowded that the old school again was taken over as a schoolroom for two years.