

Sketch of Purple Hill School

Contributed by Mrs. Job Graham
a former teacher.

also former teacher Spinks

When Cartwright was surveyed and the school sections laid out, a school building for S.S. No. 4 was planned and built on the farm of Mr. Spinks, locally known as King Spinks. It was located on the 3rd concession, on a corner near the Quarter Line Road, south of a sawmill.

It was a warm, log structure of ample size. But the location was low, making a muddy play ground quite often, especially in the Spring of the year. It was then decided to move the site to a more central place, and to higher, drier ground.

A very fine school building was erected on Purple Hill, but, unfortunately, before quite finished it was accidentally destroyed by fire. Another house was built—not quite as good as the first, which had been such a loss to the community, but still a good one for the times.

A Mr. Keely was teacher at the log school, and one morning in 1863 or 1864 he and his pupils marched up and took possession of the present school house. It was furnished with long backless benches and desks, and had an attendance of 75 to 80 pupils.

Succeeding Mr. Keely as teacher were Messrs. Philip, Sweet, Adams, Black, Miss Marlow, Messrs. Morris, Lake, Evans, and Lucas. These were the early teachers in their order.

During Mr. Black's term he conducted a successful Sunday School in the school room.

The old log school was used as a dwelling house for some time, but finally made a spectacular bonfire by David Spinks. It those days fuel was plentiful, and log heaps were burned to make a clearing for grain and vegetables.

At present, 1938, the number on the roll is about 22, with Miss Alma Lee, as teacher.



Purple Hill School, June 14, 1905. Students are, back left, Russel DeMille, Florie Gibson, Mabel Spinks, Russel Spinks, Margaret Spinks, Annie Toms, Floyd Page, Ira Gibson, and teacher Miss Gertrude Stovin. Two standing second from back, Alfred Grace and Mamie McGinnis. Centre from left, Meredith Henry, Mervin Hobbs, Louis Swain, Alymer Henry, Roy

Swain, Howard McGinnis, Weir Swain, Edna Vance, Elva Darcy, Vera Hobbs, Flossie Toms, Pearl Graham. Front row left, May Henry, Wilbur Vance, Nellie MacGregor, Helen Byers, Irene Byers, Mervin Mahaffy, Harold Mahaffy, Agnes Swain, Annie Swain.

[Photo courtesy of Mrs. Ira Argue & Wilbur Vance]



Purple Public School (late 1940 '5)

Back row - Margaret Hockin (teacher), David Swain, Ralph Strong, Harvey Graham, Muriel Steele, Wilma Toms.

Front row - Patsey Anderson, Stanley Anderson, Verna Kozub, Miriam Swain, Francis Anderson, Phyllis Strong.

BESSIE EDGERTON TEACHER
JEAN TORREY 1947
1944-45
66-7

In 1946 Purple Hill School was closed and the bldg. sold to L.O.L.# 39. The pupils were sent by bus to the area schools which were graded in 1950 and, in 1954, the Cartwright Central School was opened to all the school area.