

HISTORY OF TOWNSEND TOWNSHIP SCHOOL AREA NO. 2.

West of Hartford was School Section No. 19, Bealton. Before 1865 there was a school two miles north of the present site, but about that year a school was built along the south side of the lot on the north-east corner at Bealton. After a few years this building was moved to the back of the lot where it was used as a woodshed for the new school built on the same site (now Blonski's house).

At a ratepayer's meeting in December 1880, it was moved by David Galloway and seconded by Lewis VanEvery that a new school site be purchased. It is recorded that in October 1881 "one and one-half acres on the east side of the quarter town line nearly opposite the Methodist Chapel on the north-west part of Lot 19, Concession 4", was purchased from Robert W. Davis for \$300.00 plus \$20.00 for the wheat growing on that land. Then in March 1882, when a vote whether or not to build a new school was taken, there were 39 votes for building and 39 votes against. Mr. John VanEvery cast the deciding vote in favour of building the present school. The contractor was Mr. W. A. Smith from Hagersville; so the school was built and furnished for \$3600.00 and in June Mr. Albert VanLoon dug the well for \$33.00. The tax rate in 1882 was 9.3 mills, but in 1886 it was down to 2.25 mills.

Mr. William W. Pegg, who taught in the old school, taught first in this new school, with a salary of \$500.00 per year. The school was swept that year by Miss Lillian Turner for \$1.00 per month.

In 1883 a two hundred pound bell which cost 37¢ per pound was purchased from Cincinnati for the school.

Mr. Pegg, who continued as principal until 1889, also served as Reeve of the Township of Townsend. Mr. James Ross, who later became Township clerk, succeeded Mr. Pegg and was principal for fourteen years. Another man who was a principal for a long period of time in this school was Mr. W. F. Young, who served as principal for over thirty years.

Principals for shorter periods of time were: Mr. William Bowden (later a Public School Inspector), Solomon Simenhage, Miss Margaret Thompson, Miss Mattie Phelan, Miss Margaret J. Hair, Miss Annie Brown, Miss Catherine MacDonald, Miss Verna Disher, Mr. Arthur Archibald, Miss Olive McKnight, Mrs. Aiken, Mrs. Mary Christmas, Mrs. Marion Anderson.

In 1888 Miss Annie Horning became the first junior room teacher and received a salary of \$210.00 per annum. Other Junior Room teachers were: Miss Linnah Wilcox, Miss Martha Turner, Miss Emma Vaning, Miss Emma Pichard, Miss Phenia Barber, A. A. Smith, Miss Minnie Ivey, Miss Sutherland, Mrs. Minnie Brooks, Miss Am. M. Robertson, Miss Annie C. Henry, Miss Effie Bauslaugh, Miss W. Pearl Frizelle, Miss A. M. Sehaber, Miss Verna Disher, Miss Luck, Miss Muriel Charter, Miss Irene Stewart, Mrs. M. Polych, Mrs. Ruth (Hexemer) Cunningham, Mrs. Fern Johnson, Mrs. L. Rodgers.

Chairmen of the Board were: Messrs, David Bradshaw, Oliver Barber, Elias Slaght, Matthew Cross, Ezra W. Parney, Marshall Anderson, W. B. Smith, J. B. Taylor, Seth Bradshaw, James Overholt, Sanford Nelles, John Myerscough, George Arnold, Evan Cross, William Myerscough, John Steele, David Sharpe, Lee Leggett, Floyd Anderson.

Secretaries were: Mr. W. W. Pegg, Mr. James Ross, Mr. W. H. Overholt and Mr. Albert Hyde.

The retirement of Mr. W. F. Young, who has taught school at Bealton for over thirty years, will be marked by a reunion of former pupils and friends at the Bealton School Grounds on Saturday, June 28th, 1947. A picnic lunch will be served at noon and a program of sports will be held during the afternoon.

Mr. Young, who is a son of the late Mr. and Mrs. William Young, was born at Fairfield Plains in Burford Township on June 11, 1881. He attended school in Regina, Sask., Brantford Collegiate, Hamilton Model School and the London Normal School. His first position as teacher was at the Ambrose School in North Walsingham, later teaching at Pine Grove and Burtch before moving to Bealton in 1913. His teaching career at Bealton was interrupted in 1916, when he joined the 215th Regiment at Brantford and served in the First World War. Mr. Young was wounded in action twice, which necessitated many weeks in hospital before resuming his teaching at Bealton in 1919. In 1920, he married Mrs. Ellen Griffis, who passed away on January 28, 1947. Two sons, James W. Young, who is a student at Victoria College, Toronto, served in the Air Force during the last war and Edward G. Young of Hamilton, served in the Canadian Army in World War II. Mr. Young has made his home for several months with his step-daughter, Mrs. Ernest Coggins in Waterford.

Having taught for over thirty years at the Bealton School, we believe that Mr. Young has established a record unequalled in the Township of Townsend if not the County of Norfolk, and his retirement will be a distinct loss to the school and community.