

HISTORY OF FIRST SCHOOL IN DEWAR'S SETTLEMENT

The first school in this section was built in 1852, a small log structure built on the farm of the late James Stewart now owned by Wm. MacMillan, son of John MacMillan Jr.

Here the children of our first settlers got their education. These included Campbell's, Brennan's, Roache's, McLean's, Stevenson's, Charmichael's, Dewar's, Odber's, Russett's and Dillon's.

In the year 1873/1874 a new school was erected a short distance from the old one on the Sand Point Road. This was a frame structure.

Before these schools were built some of the pioneer children got their education in a school near the 9th Concession of McNab on the property now owned by James McGregor which later became the Lochwinnoch school. These children followed a trail through the woods over the Locho Creek. Those going were the older children of Stevenson's, Dewar's, Stewart's, Ellis', Storie's and Campbell's.

Three years later this school was destroyed by fire and the pupils were taught in the old one until the new building was erected in 1882.

This one was built on the 11th Line of McNab on the property of the late Alexander McLean and at this time owned by his nephew George McLean.

School Board for S.S. No. 7 McNab - Peter Stewart, George Stevenson and Edmond Dillon.

The three men who did the work were John Murphy, Daniel Young and Baptiste Lavallee. The first two named were from Lundy's Corners. The school was a frame building but later was covered with tin. The old school was on top of the hill beside the Church. This one was built here as it was more central, Mr. Murphy and Mr. Young having the contract.

At one time this school was bricked but the brick would not stay firm. The sagging of the foundation loosened the brick so it was removed and tin put on in its place.

In 1941 indoor toilets were installed. In 1945 a new woodshed was built in the same location as the old one. In 1948 the interior of the school was redecorated in the same colour. A cupboard in the left hand corner was built for school supplies. A bulletin board was also installed at the back of the classroom.

Mr. Ronald Dewar was chairman of the board and Mr. John A. MacMillan Secretary Treasurer.

In 1951 water supply was tested by Dr. Box and found suitable.

A deep well was drilled on the property in 1928 by Guy Campbell when quicksand was encountered at one hundred and fifteen feet. This well never gave satisfaction.

In 1953 another well driller from Ottawa put it down from 115 feet to 185 feet. This gave a well with a capacity of 500 gallons per hour.

In May, 1956 a new School Board was formed - Wilfred O'Donnell, Duncan Dewar and James M. MacMillan.

This new school was quite a modern one classroom building with a small porch and kitchen. Mrs. A.S. Dewar, oldest resident of McNab attending the official opening