

# East Nissouri History Book contributions due by Nov. 16

The East Nissouri History Book Committee volunteers have been delivering information forms to all residents within the former Township of East Nissouri, now part of Zorra Township.

Everyone who receives one is invited to use the form to help contribute their own property history or information they may have on any of the topics listed in the booklet. This phase of the project will give everyone an opportunity to preserve some of the history of their property - perhaps known only to them - that otherwise may become lost or forgotten as time goes on.

The deadline to get the forms returned is November 16.

Of all the 11 one-room schools that once dotted East Nissouri, the oldest picture discovered so far is of SS#4 - or Uniondale School. Information even exists from its first beginning as the "little log school," where the local Baptists also held their first church services before their own church was built.

The photo (at right), dated 1892 or 1893, in which all of the students have been identified, was taken in front of the board and batten building that replaced the original log structure. Later on it was covered with sheet metal, and became known as the "tin school." It was also called the "martin school" and when the building replaced again in 1941 with the brick structure which still exists today and remains largely unchanged,



Front row, from left, are Ida Robinson, Wesley Richardson, Sara Hutton, Ethel Richardson, E. Martin and Robert Rolston. Second row, from left, are Annie Wilson, Hilda Adams, John Greason, E. Martin, Robert Cooper, F. Finnie, Walter Greason, Albert Adams, M. Martin and Roy Adams. Third row, from left, are teacher John Stephen, Carrie Speck, John Hutton, Mary Hutton, Rose Cooper, William Stephens, Etta Adams, Alice Speck, M. McLaren, Lucinda Martin, Lily Kew, Christina Martin and H. Martin. Back row, from left, are Lily Adams, Lily Cooper, Fred Martin, J. Finney, Alice Reynard, Viney Martin, George Cooper and George Kew.

it was usually referred to as the Uniondale School.

For anyone living in St. Marys and the surrounding area who has roots in East Nissouri and

would like to fill out an information form, copies can be picked up and dropped off when completed at Bob Searles Chevrolet in St. Marys and Versteegh Auto

on Fairview Road. Don Adams and Karen Hughes are two members of the Committee who live in town and can help answer any questions. You can

also contact Jim Verwer, chairperson, at 519-349-2069 or email him at [jverwer@zorra.on.ca](mailto:jverwer@zorra.on.ca)

Taken from St. Marys Journal Argus Oct 31/07

S.S.#7 Medina School/1953

from: St. Marys Journal Argus: Oct. 10/07

## A chance to contribute your piece of history

### Committee looking for more information for East Nissouri History Book

The East Nissouri History Book Committee needs your help; information forms will be available and distributed soon.

All residents, and those who once lived in the former Township of East Nissouri, are invited to fill out the booklet and return it to one of the many drop-off locations listed in the package.

Everyone will have an opportunity to contribute their own property history as well as provide information on the many topics being researched for the book. Included with each form will be a map from the 1800's showing previous owners of their farm or land that their property was once part of. Please do your best to fill out these forms and get them back for use by the group.

If anyone needs help completing the form or has any questions, they can call one of the committee members (also listed). If there are photos that you would like copied, arrangements will be made to get these scanned and returned. Help the committee to continue to document and preserve East Nissouri's unique history by participating in this phase of the project.

The photo of SS#7- Medina School, or 'Gleason's School,' is yet another one of East Nissouri's historical treasures brought to light through the collection of information that has been going on for some time by the dedicated group of volunteers that have been meeting regularly at Sunova Implement (formerly Wildwood Park School).

Although the one-room school built on



A picture of the 1953 class from SS#7- Medina School in East Nissouri. Pictured are, beginning in the back row from left are, Kay Vowels, Joan Logan, Kaye Martin, Kathleen King, Gayle Taylor, teacher Edith Showers, Deanna Johnson, Marlyn King, Sharon Monteith and Billy Pinkerton (unsure if correct). In the middle from left are, Gordon Taylor, Sharon King, Diane Towle, Barry Taylor, Murray Anderson, Kathy Gleason, Grant Monteith, Bob Martin and Linda Pinkerton. In the front from left are, Richard King, Mary Harris, Sharon Worte, Shirley Worte, Joan Hutton, Faye Sutherland, Murray Sutherland and Bill Taylor.

a acre of land donated by the Gleason Farm is but a memory now that is gradually fading away, many photos including one of the 1953 class have been preserved by scanning and entering into an

electronic database for future use in the publication.

Previous residents of East Nissouri who live in St. Marys and the surrounding area who would like to receive an

information form should watch out for upcoming articles in the Journal Argus listing locations where they can be picked up and dropped off.