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Institute Meeting In Form of Picnic

The August meeting of the Acton Women's Institute was held in the form of a picnic on Thursday, August 4, at the home of Mrs. Wesley Masales. The meeting, in charge of the president, Mrs. George Fryer, opened with the Institute Ode. Several items of business were brought up and it was moved to give a worthy family a ton of coal. Two pails and cups were given to the minor baseball team, and a layette was sent to a little new citizen of Acton.

Then the picnic started with games for the members as the rain kept the children away. Winners were as follows: time race, Mrs. Kingsmill; nylon race, Mrs. Rose; ticket race, Mrs. Earl Masales, Mrs. Wes Masales, Mrs. Carrie Smith, Mrs. Lantz, Miss Betty Young; peg race, Mrs. Lambert; oldest lady, Mrs. Lantz; youngest grandmother, Mrs. Masales; most grandchildren, Mrs. Nicoll.

A delicious lunch was served by the members and all went home happy and tired, including visitors. The next meeting will be held at Mrs. Earl Lambert's in September. The ladies were asked to bring their aprons for the fall fair display.

Halton's Pages of the Past

Mark Centennial This Week of School Section Three of Nassagaweya, Early History Sketchy

BY GWEN CLARKE

In many sections of Halton County picturesque names have been ousted in favor of the modern, more prosaic type. There is a striking example of this in Nassagaweya township where two villages on the Guelph Road which, unofficially, once bore the quaint old Biblical names of Sodom and Gomorrah are now registered as Haltonville and Moffat.

The reason for the name "Haltonville" is obvious; Moffat is a little more obscure. Apparently in the early days James Moffat had a blacksmith's shop at Gomorrah and the settlers would say they were going to Moffat's shop. Eventually the village itself came to be known as Moffat.

One of First Settled
This section was one of the first parts of the township to be settled and between the one-time villages

of Sodom and Gomorrah we find School Section No. 3, which this week is marking its Centennial by a three day celebration. Unfortunately most of the early school records have been destroyed so we can give only a partial history of the school by putting together bits and pieces of information that have come our way, trusting the whole will be as nearly accurate as possible under the circumstances.

The first school, undoubtedly built of logs, was on the Line facing the Guelph Road, between the properties of Scottish-born pioneers John and Robert Hutcheon. Parts of the old foundation can still be seen within the fence corners. From 1836 to 1839 this building was also used as a Presbyterian church, the congregation being under the charge of the Rev. Duncan McMillan and the Rev. Peter Ferguson. The first teacher at the school was one Wm. Tolchard.

Became Blacksmith Shop
The second school was on the east corner of Lot 15, Concession 3. About this time, according to Joshua Norris's history there was also a school at Moffat. In 1857 it was this school that was taken over by James Moffat and turned into a blacksmith's shop.

The present school was built on the north corner of Lot 15, Concession 2 on what is known as the Allison property. As the number of scholars increased the school was enlarged, eventually becoming a two-room school. The date over the front entry is 1870 so we surmise the Centennial dates from the initial building of the original part of the school. In 1940 S.S. No. 3 became a part of School Area No. 1 and at that time there were classes in manual training and domestic science. There are now over 40 pupils so that in September 1955 it will be necessary for Grades 7 and 8 to attend school at Campbellville.

Paid Per Pupil
How different from the olden days! Naturally the pioneer school preceded the school section by a good many years. At that time the settlers paid the teacher so much a pupil, the teacher boarding in turn at the homes of his pupils. If a good teacher was engaged it was more by good luck than anything else, the settlers having to be content if the man they engaged could at least teach the "three Rs". And yet, even under those conditions, there must have been many good teachers who conscientiously taught and trained the youth of their day in honest and upright living.

Proof lies in the fact that S.S. No. 3 contributed more officials to Nassagaweya township than any other school section—that is in the way of reeves, councillors, assessors and treasurers. And there were others whose names became known far and afield. Among them—was Duncan S.

Hutcheon, M.P.P. for Davidson, Saskatchewan. He was also Deputy-speaker of the Provincial House; James Hutcheon, Civil Engineer and Inspector of Surveys for the Ontario Department of Lands and Forests; David Hutcheon, Treasurer for the County of Halton for many years. Robert Meade, a former pupil and teacher, became a public school inspector.

In Medical Profession
Quite a number of scholars from S.S. No. 3 followed the medical profession, among them Doctors Duncan Gillies, Wm. Gillies, Robert McEwen, John Barber, Wm. Wint, Dr. Clifford Young and Dr. Letitia Sirrs. No doubt this list is far from being complete since we have no records to guide us. Besides the ones who moved away there were those who stayed in the district and by the unfailing interest and influence have done much to promote the welfare of S.S. No. 3. The families of Amos, Black and Campbell, for instance, have brought fame to their home district by their activities as importers and breeders of pedigreed cattle.

40 Teachers, 42 Years
Little information is available regarding the early teachers. The only names we have are those of Tolchard and a Mr. Dutton who lived in the village. But we have a long list of teachers who, taught in the present school from 1870. Up until 1912 there were no less than 40 teachers appointed for a period of from one to three years. Although Robert Meade taught for six years they were not consecutive years. One teacher, not mentioned on the list, was Arthur Hunt. Apparently the older boys gave him a rough time and he resigned within a month.

One pupil who attended the school, probably 70 years ago, was George E. Ingelhart. He later moved to Grimsby. At the age of 80 he retired from business and took up painting as a hobby. A few years ago, while on a visit to the village of Moffat, he painted two pictures of S.S. No. 3 which were later donated to the school and have been hung in the main room.

Held Reunion
On June 30, 1930, S.S. No. 3 celebrated its 75th Anniversary by a reunion of former teachers and pupils. The hard-working committee who arranged this successful event was headed by Mr. James Moffat, at that time secretary-treasurer for the township. Present at the reunion were representatives of the families who had attended S.S. No. 3 through the years, some of whom have since moved away. Among them were the Cartons, McPhails, Hutcheons, Moores, Finlays, Lambs, Lillycrofts and others too numerous to mention. At this gathering a letter was read from Dr. D. R. Gillies, of New York, stating that he and his wife, the former Jenny Canute, had arranged for a gold medal to be donated each year to the pupil attaining the highest marks on the year's work.

Progress in District
Visitors to the 75th Anniversary came from all parts of Canada to meet once again with their old teachers and schoolmates. We anticipate the Centennial of this same school, set amid pioneer homes and villages, will be equally well attended. And if the spirit of those who first cleared the land and tilled the fields could know the progress that has been made in the district where they settled we think they would be well content.

No doubt amid the gaiety of the Centennial celebrations fitting tribute will be paid to those pioneers who made this day possible. Their part in the founding of S.S. No. 3 will hardly be forgotten. And the

young lads who paid the supreme sacrifice either in World War 1 or World War 2 will certainly be remembered. Their names—Cpl. John Blair, Pte. Clarence Carlton, Pte. H. C. Easley and P.O. Clarence Easley.

There have been many changes since 1855 but at this Centennial it would appear that S.S. No. 3 has every reason to be proud of the well kept, adjacent villages of Haltonville and Moffat—and the villages in turn may regard with satisfaction the School Section which they have so loyally maintained through the years.

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Lengthy Illness For Mrs. A. Mann

A life-long resident of this district and highly respected member of the community, Mrs. Archibald Mann, the former Mary Moore, passed away in Acton on July 31. In her 85th year, she had undergone a lengthy illness.

She was born in 1870, daughter of the late James Moore and Margaret Reid, who both came to this country from Ireland. She and her husband lived many years on the farm now owned by Mr. and Mrs. George Somerville on No. 23 highway. They later moved to town. Mr. Mann died not ten years ago. They had no children and Mrs. Mann lived alone in her Main St. home.

She attended Knox church regularly when health permitted. Rev. Lockhart-Royal of Norval conducted the funeral service at the Rumlum Funeral Home on Tuesday, August 3. Interment was in Fairview cemetery. Surviving a brother, James Moore of Acton.

Tips on Touring

By Carol Lane

Women's Travel Authority
Clothes, it has been said, make the man. Clothes also can make or break the car trip for your children this summer. The cardinal principle is picking your child's travel wardrobe is to remember his comfort. If his clothes are comfortable and cool, he won't wiggle and squirm so much or interfere with your driving. To select the right wardrobe for your boy-or-girl, for either a long or a short trip, look for labels like "crease resistant", "spot resistant", "washable" and "needs no ironing." These terms are found in the "miracle fabrics", as well as in acetate, cotton and specially-treated rayon.

For boys, select slacks of Orlon, Dacron, nylon or these blends in either light-weight gabardine or flannel. If you don't plan to stop at "dress up" restaurants, denim slacks and matching jackets will fill the travel bill perfectly. For girls, slacks of the same fabrics make a comfortable travel costume, too. If your daughter prefers to be more feminine—and bouffant, dress her in the wide, easy-to-move-around-in skirts of denim, Orlon and Acrilan. For tops that will really be "tops" with the youngsters, get cotton knit "T-shirts" and knit blouses. If daughter needs to look dressy at the end of the trip, take along a frilly nylon dress for her.

Your infant will be a tiny beau brummel if you let him travel in flannel or jersey kimonos. And don't forget to take plenty of disposable diapers—the handiest items yet invented for infant travel wear.

The right clothes for your children will serve to "dress-up" the whole family's automobile trip.

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