

Rockwood News

S. S. 8, Eramosa

Schools Concern of Early Pioneers History Traced Back for 122 Years

Rockwood — Especially at this time when consolidation is coming to Eramosa and many of the small schools will be closing in the not too distant future, this historical account of the community surrounding S. S. 8 Eramosa has an even greater value. Compiled by Mrs. Douglas Mc Nab who has worked many months on research from many sources, it is very interesting and informative and should be shared with everyone.

History of S.S. No. 8 Eramosa, Wellington
As early as 1819 what is now Eramosa township was surveyed by one Samuel Ryehman. It had been part of land surrendered to the government as early as 1759 by the Mississaugas.

The first council meeting was held January 24, 1850 in what was then known as Thomas Armstrong elected reeve. Wm. Oliphant clerk and Joseph Parkinson J.P. and treasurer; additional councillors were Adam L. Argo, Jas. Mitchell, James Parkinson and Donald Black.

The county was dense forest at that time but it had great possibilities and to the people of Britain far away fields were green.

First Settlers
About the year 1821 there arrived three Irishmen, Mr. John Harris, Mr. Wm. Smith and their friend Mr. John Ramsey. These three were the first settlers in Eramosa. Harris and Smith were Quakers, but Ramsey was not.

They made a clearing and built a shanty, working very long hours and enduring many hardships. There were a few other settlers near the falls of Elara and in far away Erin district. The city of Guelph was not founded until six years later — 1827.

Wolves and bears prowled through the bush and were a menace to the early settlers. Many of the early settlers brought their wives and children whom the parents were very anxious to educate. Mr. Harris had two daughters who carried on a private school in their home about the year 1823. New settlers were arriving and private schools were held in many homes throughout the township.

Graduation
The township was divided into lines, No. 1, 2, etc. as it became more thickly populated. Schools were built, one on 1st line, one on the 2nd line, and a school known as "Central School House" on the 4th line, which was chosen as a place for all township meetings etc. These private schools were all built and operated by community effort.

This settlement in the Southern part of the township, was eventually called Brotherstown supposedly from the fact that many of the settlers were "Friends" or "Quakers" and their convictions were to promote peace and brotherhood with their fellowmen.

In the year 1842, at a meeting held in Central School House, the more settled part of the township was divided into five districts, and organized education continues from that time. More schools were built, and this necessitated more changes — one school to each district (No. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5).

Railroad Near
No. 4 was built east of the settlement of Brotherstown (now Rockwood), and later the Grand Trunk Railway was built (about 1854-5) and ran quite close to the No. 4 schoolhouse. It was said that the scholars were fearful of the workmen, especially when they received their wages and spent their time and money on liquor. Eventually the G.T.R. was taken over by the C.N.R. which still operates.

The first trustees of No. 4 school, dating from 1842 were Elders Jas. Black, John Harris and Alex Burns. The first teacher was John Robertson, who served until 1849, when he was succeeded by Wm. Weatherald, who resigned in 1850 and a few years later started a more advanced seat of learning known as the Rockwood Academy. This was built in 1855 and continued until 1883. It was at this time that Brotherstown became Rockwood.

Now School in 1875
In 1871 the system was again changed and No. 4 school became No. 8, a township school. At this time a school was built in the village and many pupils who had attended No. 8 left and went to the village school No. 9, and in 1873 a new No. 8 school was built. The No. 4 Little Red School House was abandoned as a seat of learning, to be occupied for many years by Miss Mary Hill. It is still in use and very neatly kept — by Mrs. George Ingle, his wife Phyllis and their four children.

In the years since 1873, when the present school was built, many community gatherings have been held in the school, socials, teas, meetings, literary meetings, singing classes, Christmas, Valentine and Halloween parties, showers, preparations and the

Women's Institute held many of their regular monthly meetings there when it is not convenient in the homes. For a number of years the Women's Institute have conducted euchre parties every second week during the winter months. The last euchre was held April, 1964.

If Walls Could Speak
If those old walls could speak, many interesting stories would be told bringing back memories of the 122 years, since our forefathers worked and sacrificed to build these two schools.

Many men and women became doctors, lawyers, dentists, nurses, teachers, explorers, ministers and politicians, among them J. J. Hill of railroad fame. All had their early training in S.S. No. 8. Many have passed on to their reward, but their memory still lives.

Area System
The system of governing the district schools has again been changed. We now have the area system created in 1947. A board of five trustees governs all the schools in Eramosa. Larger and more modern schools are replacing the Little Red School House, and the children are transported by bus to these larger schools.

We are now faced with closing No. 8 school. We ask those who are a step in the right direction and that our children and those who follow will appreciate the history of the community that laid the foundation for their education in S.S. No. 8 Eramosa.

First Teacher
In 1842 when No. 4 school was started the first teacher was John Robertson. From the school register and minutes of the trustees I will endeavor to name all the teachers down through the years, John Robertson 1842-1849, Wm. Weatherald 1849-1851, Jas. Black 1851-1853, Adam Laing 1853-1854, Wm. Atkins 1854-1856, Jas. Dixon 1856-13 days, Robt. Shanks 1858-1857.

Wm. Perkins 1857-1859 Oct. 1859 Robert Farries Oct. 1859 to end of year, John M. Gibson 1860-1865, Sarah Hill taught 2 1/2 months in 1864, Thomas Gregory 1866-1869, Wm. Fitzsimmons 1870-1872, Jennett Anderson 1873-April 3 to November 15, A. T. Day Dec. 1873-Jan. 14 1874 to Nov. 1880, John Toivola Dec. 1880-1881 Dec. 27, John Toivola 1881-1887, J. E. Day 1888-1890.

Hugh Kennedy 1891-1892, D. A. Kingsbury 1893-1896, E. B. Jackson 1897-1898, W. O. McKinnon 1899-1901, H. Raine 1902, H. Ried taught 10 days in 1902, E. M. Pasmore 1903, R. J. McCarron taught first part of 1904 — ill and left, Miss Eliza McQueen finished year 1904-1906, Wm. Graham 1907, A. Daymond began Sept. 1908, Miss Lois Black taught 1 month 1909 while Mr. Daymond ill, A. Daymond Oct.-Dec. 1909-1910 June, Miss Alice Wray Sept. 1910-1911 June, Miss Batty Sept. 1911-Dec. 1912, R. J. Nicholson Jan.-Feb. 1913, Miss Friendship Mar.-June 1913, W. H. Kock Sept.-Dec. 1913, W. H. Kock Jan. 1914-June 1915, Miss B. E. Scott Sept. 1915 to Dec. 1915-April 1916, Miss M. Masales finished 1916-June 1919, Miss Ruby Stickney Sept. 1919 to Feb. end of year 1921-1922 to June 1923, 1920.

Miss M. Masales March 1920 to Miss Lula Cavell Sept. 1921 to end of year, Wm. Henbest Jan. 1924 to end of year, Miss Masales 1925-1930 to end of June, Walter Swanston Sept. 1930-1936, Geo. Clifton 1937-1938, Geo. Switzer 1938-1939, Miss Ruth McKay 1940-1945.

Trustees at No. 4 school Eramosa 1842-1872: John Harris, Elder Jas. Black, Geo. Armstrong, Alex Burns, Robt. Farries, Robt. Dunbar, Jas. Black, Alex Hill, Samuel Balls, Wm. McNabb, Norris Black, Arch McNabb Sr. These men were all re-elected many times and served many years.

1871 Wm. Farries; 1872 J. R. Harris.
New school was built and same trustees carried on 1873-1910: J. R. Harris, David Shultz, Robt. Dunbar, Wm. Farries, Wm. McNabb, John Black, Alex Burns Jr., Alex McIntosh, Hugh Black, Jas. Hill, John Burns, John McNabb, Elijah Seawles, John Black, G. L. Graham, G. H. Brown, Bernard Shultz, John T. Brown, Norris Black, Chas. McNabb Sr., Matthew Farries; 1910 Mr. E. D. McPhedran.

Trustees from 1910 to 1945: Matthew Farries, Norris Black, D. E. McPhedran, Arch McNabb, Edwin Cripps, N. H. Black, H. S. Hocking, Frank Dav. Geo. Bayne, J. D. McNabb, Baxter Nelson, J. Hammond Wardlaw, Albert Shultz, H. J. Black, J. J. Toney, H. Haunder, Alex McPhedran, Chas. McNabb, Lloyd Johnston. These men all served many years, some being re-elected several times.

1945 — last of trustees before area school system.

Chimney Fire, Ignites Roof Erin Fire Brigade Summoned

What might have been a serious fire, occurred Saturday, when the chimney at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Muir McCutcheon took fire and in turn ignited a section in the ceiling. The Erin Fire Brigade were called and attended till all danger was over.

Church Conventions
Mrs. D. G. Robertson attended the annual convention of the Disciples of Christ held at Windmill Point Church, near Ridgeway on Friday and Saturday.

Birthday Party
Billy McKenzie entertained his school chums on Monday after school on the occasion of his eighth birthday.

Sherlock Aitken left last week for North Bay, where he assumes duties with the R.C.A.F. for the summer holidays.

Kitchen Shower
A number of ladies, members of the Women's Institute and Ladies' Aid attended a kitchen shower for Mrs. George Fletcher (nee Margaret McMillan), held at the home of Mrs. S. Fuller recently.

Arrange for Bazaar at Sunshine School
The meeting held at the home of Mrs. C. Anderson on Thursday afternoon, June 4 for the North Halton Association for the Mentally Retarded, with six members present, opened with a prayer, the minutes read by the secretary and the treasurer's report.

The president Mrs. J. Turko reported that the surplus rummage sale articles had been collected by the Salvation Army. Members Mrs. N. Price, Mrs. C. Anderson and Mrs. J. Buckman were named conveners for the bazaar to be held in June. The future project is to hold an other bazaar sometime in the fall to raise funds.

Treatment, Training
Today, the Canadian Association for Retarded Children is a national organization with branches in all major centres. Its programs of education, treatment and care have been a major factor in creating a new life for Canada's 600,000 mentally retarded.

Provision of this type of treatment and training recognized as essential in the battle against mental retardation now constitutes the major effort of the Canadian Association for Retarded Children.

OSPREY

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Cheque for \$500 From Auxiliary

Acton Legion Ladies' Auxiliary held their last meeting till September, Thursday at the Legion Hall, President Mrs. C. Shultz is in the chair.

A \$500 cheque is to be given to Branch 197 for repairs to the Legion Hall, also a donation of \$50 for the retarded children.

At the recent zone rally held in Port Credit, retiring zone commander Mrs. W. J. Findley was honored by two presentations in appreciation of her long service. She received a gift of jewellery from Provincial Command and members of 10 auxiliary branches in zone B7 gave her a purse of money. Mrs. Findley's successor in the post of zone commander is Muriel Peck of Port Credit.

The winner of the bingo draw was Mrs. J. Loutitt.

Congratulations were extended to the auxiliary bowling team who placed fourth in the recent regional tournament. They will be sporting new bowling shirts when they compete in the provincial playoffs in Walkerton on September 12. After the meeting, lunch was served and a social hour enjoyed.

42nd Anniversary
Father V. J. Morjan observed the 42nd anniversary of his ordination into the priesthood with a High Mass, Wednesday morning at St. Joseph's church.

Mrs. Tom Shields Entertains U.C.W.
Monday evening Mrs. Tom Shields entertained Unit 1 of the Trinity U.C.W. at her home. A most delicious buffet supper was enjoyed.

York Results
Jean Hart earned Wednesday she has successfully passed her first year in arts at York University with a standing of B plus between 75 and 80 per cent.

Treasure Mart Again Success

Another Treasure Mart sponsored by the Duke of Devonshire I.O.D.E. chapter was a success. It was held Friday, June 5 at Van Gils store.

The overall convener was Mrs. W. J. B. Beatty who ably planned the affair as well as contributed many unusual and interesting articles. Her assistant, Mrs. Holmes, convener the new articles table. Mrs. J. McGeechie and Mrs. E. Lidka presided over the bake table and Mrs. H. Mainprize, Miss Mainprize and Mrs. N. Bowles convener the rummage. Mrs. Gordon Johnston convener the plant stand and Mrs. A. Iron side took charge of the books.

The draws were won as follows: dressed doll, Mick Holmes, smoked dress, Mrs. Roy Brown, Toronto, silver necklace, Brenda Krosan (who was just out of hospital that day, recovering from appendicitis) and was delighted, electric fry pan, Mrs. Jack McGeechie.

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AT MOHAWK

Milton Kinsmen, their wives and guests had dinner and an evening at the races Monday, when 24 journeyed east to Hawk Raceway. There were so big winners reported.

THE PROOF
Wife: I think married men should also wear something to show that they are married.
Husband: I do — all the time. This shiny suit.

Then there was the bitter golf match between two Scots under a broiling sun in which one of them had a stroke — and the other made him count it.

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and
Sour Cream
and
Butter
and
Ice Cream
and
Cottage Cheese
and
Aid of Course
Milk
and
Naturally
from

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