



Township of Melancthon
Heritage Advisory Committee
One Room Schoolhouse Project

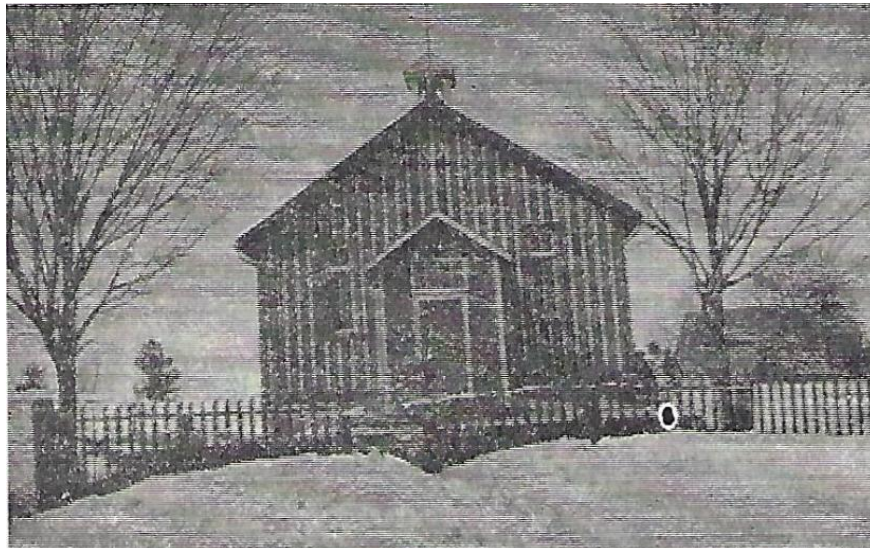
S.S. #8

Shrigley School

By: History Committee

Wes. McQuarrie, Chairman

**Orval Ellis, Mrs. Gordon Haw, Roy Stewart, Neil
Stewart, Lindsay Bell and Ernie Bell**



Background

Today, July 1st, 1967, marks the closing of Shrigley School. For many, it holds cherished memories and there was a tug at our hearts as we heard the bell ring and the door closed for the last time.

We should like to pay tribute to our forefathers, who worked under difficulties to build and maintain the school, to all teachers, trustees and secretaries who took an interest in the affairs of education at Shrigley and obtained excellent results.

The first records date back to the year 1863 when school was held in a log building on the farm now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Bell. It was also used as a place of worship until a church was built. At that time, it was known as S.S. No. 4, Melancthon, in the County of Grey. One of the first teachers was Sarah Ann Bell at a salary of \$80 per year. Other teachers were Miss M. Brunker, Miss Sarah Darah, Miss Mary Keirnan, Miss Joan Armstrong, Miss Georgina Scott and Mr. David Stewart. The first secretaries were James Mitchell and James Stewart.

Soon the need was felt for a new school and in 1875 land was purchased from Allan McAuley for the sum of \$34.12 on which the present school was built by Ed. Matchett at a cost of \$600, this being the old McQuarrie farm now owned by Mansell McQuarrie. This school is the oldest public school in Melancthon Township. Mr. David Stewart was engaged as teacher at a salary of \$300. It was known as S.S. No. 1, Melancthon and Osprey.

The first trustees were James Norris, James Kitchen and Richard Bell. George Bailey was the first secretary-treasurer. In 1888 the woodshed was built. As the years passed, other improvements were made. The picket fence was erected in 1902 and the bell, which could be heard for miles, was purchased a few years later. Some of the first settlers were Wm. August, E. B. Shrigley, James Redpath, Wm. Hope, George K. Tranner, James White, Ed. Norris, Mr. Hudson, Ed. Cole, Rose Bell, George and Thomas Kitchen, Robert Kirby, Richard Bell and Jonadab Bell.

At this time farmers were working their land by horse-drawn machinery. But as years passed modern machinery and new methods were adopted — just as today with education, more up-to-date facilities are a must.

In this, our Centennial year, we think back to two World Wars, in which many young men from Shrigley school went to serve their country in the armed forces. Some gave their lives that Canada might remain free.

A few were privileged to go beyond Shrigley school to a higher education and were successful as teachers, doctors, nurses, politicians, ministers and dentists.

Notes of Interest

- ❖ David Stewart was the first teacher in the present school and held the longest term of office — 21 years.
- ❖ The old school was sold to Edmund Norris for \$25.
- ❖ Miss Brunner was paid a salary of 40£. s. per annum.
- ❖ Pine lumber was hauled from Collingwood for the new school.
- ❖ The well was dug on the west side of the school by W. D. Taylor in 1884.
- ❖ The trees planted in 1892 were a valuable asset to the school property in providing shade for the playgrounds.
- ❖ Many happy hours were spent tobogganing, sleigh riding and skating on the "Black Sea."
- ❖ Arbor day and Christmas concerts were always looked forward to.
- ❖ In recent years music was taught by a music supervisor and religious instruction given by the local ministers in the community.
- ❖ In the years 1867 the school was cleaned for \$1.50 and hardwood could be bought for 50¢ per cord.

TEACHERS WHO TAUGHT IN SHRIGLEY SCHOOL

Miss Sarah Ann Bell	1863—1865	Miss Mildred Cole	1922—1923
Miss M. Bruncker	1865—1869	Miss Elva Brown	1923—1924
Miss Sarah Darah	1869—1870	Miss Erma Broderick	1924—1926
Miss Mary Keirnan	1870—1871	Miss Marjorie Harrison	1926—1928
Miss Joan Armstrong	1871—1873	Miss Bessie Shea	1928—1930
Miss Georgina Scott	1873—1874	Miss Mabel Wright	1930—1931
Mr. David Stewart	1874—1895	Miss Florence Graham ...	1931—Jan. 1932
Mr. R. J. McGhee	Part of 1895	Miss Eva Marritt	Feb. 1932—1936
Mr. M. Walker	1895—1897	Miss Marjorie Taylor	1936—1937
Miss Clarissa McKay	1897—1898	Mr. Jack McDonald	1937—1940
Miss Bessie Sharp	1898—1899	Miss Doris Blackburn]	
Miss M. J. Smith	1899—1902	Miss Nellie Huxtable]	1940—1941
Miss Edythe Preston	1902—1904	Mr. Wm. Tupling]	
Miss N. Oldfield	1904—1905	Miss Valetta Emerson]	
Miss Bessie Thompson	1905—1907	Mrs. Sylvia Haw	1941—1943
Miss McKinnon	1907—Part of 1908	Mrs. J. O. Bailey	1943—1946
Miss Bessie Thompson	1908—1909	Miss Mildred Hollingshead	1946—1948
Miss Clara Granger	Part of 1909	Miss Isobelle McLean	1948—1950
Miss Nellie Oldfield	1909—1910	Mr. Wm. Siddall	1950—1951
Miss V. M. Logan	Part of 1910	Miss Lorene Galligar	1951—1953
Miss Delia Hulse	1910	Mrs. Patricia Moore	1953—1955
Miss P. Munsie	Part of 1911	Mrs. Charles Murcar	1955—1957
Miss Olive M. Dales	To the end of 1911	Mrs. Mildred Ellis	1957—1959
Miss Alice Whiteman	1911—1912	Miss Betty Ann Ruttan	1959—1960
Miss Small	Part of 1912	Miss Nettie Moore	1960—1962
Miss Alice Whiteman	1912—1913	Mr. Don Dewar	1962—1963
Miss Marjorie Gardiner	1913—1915	Mrs. Audrey Clarke]	
Miss Janet Livingstone	1915—1916	Mrs. Marjorie Speers]	1963—1964
Miss Lillian McPhail	1916—1918	Mr. David Sue]	
Miss Eva Bailey	1918—1920	Mrs. Marjorie Speers]	
Miss Pearl Allen	1920—1921	Miss Mary Stephens	1964—1965
Miss Marie McNamara	1921—1922	Mrs. Mac. Pallister	1965—1966

SECRETARIES AND TREASURERS OF SHRIGLEY SCHOOL

OLD SCHOOL:

James Mitchell James Stewart

PRESENT SCHOOL:

George Bailey	James Mitchell	Wes. McQuarrie
Wm. Hope	W. T. Mitchell	Elvin Stewart
James Mitchell	James Redpath Stewart	Mrs. Neil Trudgeon
Andrew Aitken	James Aitken	Mitchell Winters
Richard Bell		

If any teachers' or secretaries' names have been omitted, the omission is unintentional and is regretted.

POEM

There is a destiny that makes us brothers,
None can go his way alone,
All that is sent into the lives of others
Comes back into our own.

Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time.

And there will I keep you forever,
Yes, forever and a day,
'Till the walls shall crumble to ruin
And moulder in dust away.