



Township of Melancthon
Heritage Advisory Committee
One Room Schoolhouse Project
S.S. #10
Lower Riverview School
By: Norma Godbold



Background

In this area of Ontario, the first log school building was constructed in 1875 on the property that later became the S.S. # 10, Melancthon School on Part Lot 17, Concession 6 North East. Because students from the Riverview area attended this school, it was referred to as the Lower Riverview School. When School Sections were designated, and Riverview had its own school, it became known as Gray's School.

The schoolhouse for S.S.#10, Melancthon Township, Dufferin County was located on the Seventh Line of Melancthon Township at the corner of the # 270 Sideroad on Part Lot 17, Concession 6 North East. Because it was located on the corner of the farm owned by William (Bill) and Elsie Gray, it was often referred to as "Gray's School".

Memories from Norma Jane Anderson

At age six, on September 5, 1939, I, (Norma Jane Anderson), enrolled in Grade One at S.S. # 10, Melancthon. I will share, at least in part, my journey through Elementary School. Some of my first classmates are included here.



Most of the S.S.# 10 School Students in 1941

Back Row (l-r): Bob Anderson, Eulalia Armstrong, Joyce Gray. Bernice Teeter.

Middle Row (l-r): Ronald Gray, (Eye), Jack Gray, Aubrey Gray, Lorna VanAlstine, Marjorie Anderson, Donald Armstrong.

Front Row (l-r): Mel Teeter, Norma Anderson, Irvine VanAlstine, Betty Smith.

I recall the S.S. # 10 building was constructed of red brick, with the chimney mounted on the roof at the east end, and the bell tower at the west end. According to the general rules in the manual, the building was to be near the centre of the lot with the front facing the road! These two rules were applied, but many others were ignored for practical reasons!

The building was entered through the front porch. Separate doors for the boys and girls opened into two smaller rooms at the back of the classroom. The students hung their outdoor clothing on hooks, placed their lunch that was carried in honey pails on the shelf. Their books were toted in a recycled flour or sugar bag. Some students had a leather schoolbag.

The classroom was one large rectangular area with three huge windows on opposite sides of the building that were by regulation four feet above the floor to prevent students from being distracted by outdoor activities. The ceiling had to be a minimum of twelve feet from the floor.

The teacher's desk was located at the front in the middle of the classroom. There were small single desks for one student, and double desks for two students. These desks and seats were all screwed to the floor. I shared a double desk with my older sister Marjorie, my guardian, for all my primary years. Later, the desks were screwed to slats so they could be easily moved to provide space for different activities. In that era, the schoolhouse was the location for community social events. Later, in the 1940's, Community Halls were available!



The slate, and slate pencils were used by each student. The felt brushes were used to erase the blackboards.

In the front corner was a large cupboard with doors. The upper part was used to shelve library books, while the lower section contained craft and school supplies. Large blackboards were across the front of the classroom. White or coloured chalk could be used, but white was preferred. Felt brushes erased the chalk. In the 1880's the students used a slate and a slate pencil. Later scribblers were available to replace the slates.

To heat the school, the usual method was to install a black box stove (a Quebec heater) at the back of the room. The wood entered through a door at the end of the stove. The pipes were suspended on long hooks to about two feet below the ceiling, and then straight across to the front of the room, where it entered the wall and out into the chimney. This long pipe was supposed to give off a certain amount of heat itself and that is why it crossed the length of the room.

The S.S. # 10, Board of three Trustees was elected by the residents. During my years, the members were Gordon Anderson (our Dad), Bill Smith and Chester Gray. One day, the Trustees had an emergency call to the school to respond to a problem with the stovepipes. The farmers didn't take time to dress up!



Left to Right: Chester Gray, Bill Smith & Gordon Anderson, Chair

Their responsibilities included hiring a teacher. In the early 1900's, a teacher's salary would be about two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250.00) a year. In the 1940's, a teacher earned a salary that would amount to a yearly income of around eight hundred dollars (\$800.00). By the early 1950's, the salary had increased to about eighteen hundred dollars (\$1800) a year. In those early years the Trustees determined the salary!



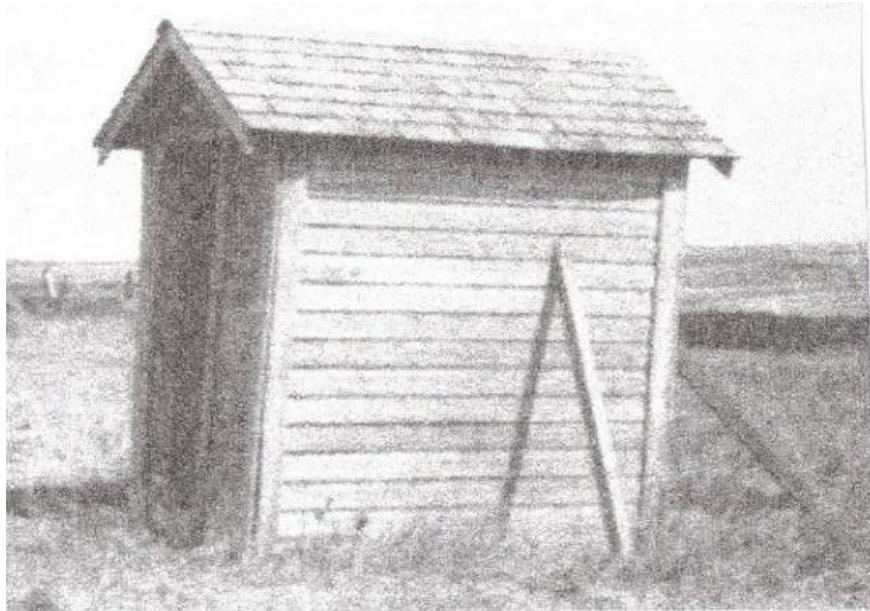
Both the school and the woodshed needed repairs!

Additional responsibilities for the Trustees included the operation and maintenance of the building, providing textbooks and necessary supplies. The Trustees were required to supply dry wood and have it piled in the woodshed that was located at the back of the school building. Sometimes, the shed was not kept in good repair with boards missing or the door broken. The wood would be very wet and did not create much heat! When the students heard the wood sizzling, they knew it would be a cool morning! Often, in the winter, outdoor clothing would be worn until noon! The teacher kept the fire burning during the day ... hopefully!!!!

The Trustees hired a Caretaker to tend the fire, heat the school, and keep the wood box filled with dry wood. The classroom was swept each day, and

generally, the Caretaker kept the school neat and tidy. During the Christmas, Easter and Summer Vacations the school was thoroughly cleaned.

For convenience, an outhouse - sometimes called a privy - or a shanty - was built in the backyard near the woodshed. Regulations indicated that two buildings were to be constructed, one for the boys and one for the girls, and each located at a suitable distance apart.



This photo is like the S.S.#10 Outhouse/Shanty

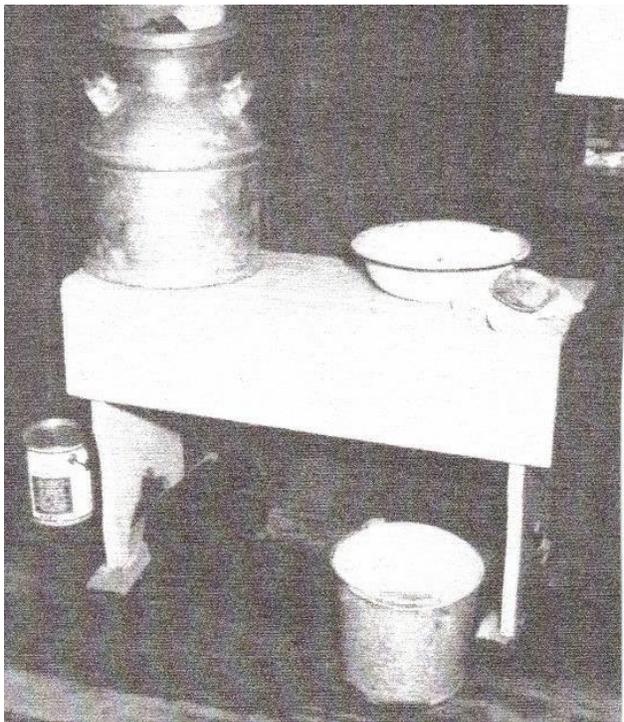
However, many schools, such as S.S.#10, only had one outhouse until, finally, indoor chemical toilets were installed beside the cloakrooms about 1945.

Regulations required a fence to be built to surround the school lot to keep the animals out. Many outdoor games were played in the huge yard. Baseball, 'antie' over the 'shanty' (woodshed), tag and dodgeball were favourite games. The students usually settled their own disputes!

One morning, before the teacher arrived, the students were playing 'scrub' baseball. There were no teams, but each player moved up one position as soon as the batter struck out. When one student struck out, he did not want to take his place in the field. My youngest brother, Fred, was the catcher. As he stepped forward to take his place at the bat, that student swung the bat, hitting Fred

very hard on the side of his head. Fred, bleeding profusely, collapsed in a strange position. A student ran to get Chester Gray to get our parents to take Fred to Dr. McLean in Shelburne. It was a very serious injury, and all the students were extremely frightened!

A well had to be dug or drilled with a pump to provide water. A tin mug was hung beside the pump so fresh water was always available for drinking. At S.S. # 10, the water was contaminated with a strong smell of sulphur so the water had to be carried in a pail from Bill and Elsie Gray's well. Two of the older students would be assigned this task. By the time they returned to the school some of the water had splashed out of the pail, feet were wet, and there were bugs, hayseeds and other debris floating on the water. All this "stuff" was skimmed from the water before entering the school. I remember those regular daily trips! One granite cup hung by the pail and all the students drank from it. At the back of the classroom, on each side, was located a wash basin where the boys and girls lined up to wash their hands in the same water before lunch. Later, health inspection frowned on these procedures and enforced healthier conditions, so students used their own containers. However, hand washing remained much the same!



The hand basin, cream can or pail of water, slop pail & a little honey pail were part of the daily routine.

Usually, all the students walked about one or two miles to school. On rainy days, our Mom or Dad (Gordon & Christena Anderson) would drive us to school. During the winter, we dressed warmly because we walked to school. Sometimes, the snow was so deep that we would make a trail and walk in the fields. We were careful to keep our path close enough that we could always see the rail fence. One night, it was so stormy that we lost sight of the fence, but, Bob, our big brother, always lead the way and broke the trail. He spotted Elmer and Gertie Armstrong's barn and that guided us to our trail and home. If a winter blizzard developed during the day, Dad would usually arrive at the school with the team and sleigh and all the children in our neighbourhood would be given a ride home. During the winter, if bad weather or blizzards were evident in the morning, school was cancelled for the day. Without telephones, that was a 'common sense' decision!

One afternoon in March, my sister Marj and I were walking across the #270 sideroad on our way home from school. The Grand River was badly flooded. When we arrived at the poplar grove at the bend, the water was starting to cover the road. We were afraid to continue, so we decided to cross Elmer Armstrong's ploughed field to avoid the river. I reached the fence, but Marj got stuck in the mud. I returned to help her, and I, too, became stuck facing her. We *bawled!* Gertie Armstrong had been at the barn feeding her hens. On her way to the house, she heard us bawling and came to rescue us. Our big brother, Bob, came to walk us home!!! I have always been fearful of flooding!



The Poplar Grove
Every Spring, the
Grand River always
flooded across the road
at the poplar grove,
and through the fields!
Huge ice blocks!

In Ontario, each County had a Public School Inspector who visited each school in the County in the Fall and again in the Spring. The Inspector was responsible for the appraisal of the teacher's performance, assess the progress of the students, review the health standards and the condition of the building. The teacher hoped the students would behave and perform well. The Inspector's report was filed by the Teacher and the School Board for future reference. During my era, the Public School Inspector was Mr. William L. Lovell from Orangeville. Later, he was followed by Mr. Charles Gabel, who became the area superintendent when the rural changes were established in the late sixties. When larger consolidated schools were introduced, the new structure included a Director of Education, Superintendents, Principals and Staff.

At S.S. # 10, Melancthon, my first teacher was Miss Florence Welker. She boarded with Mr. and Mrs. John Elliott, a couple located about a mile north of the school. She walked to and from school each day. Miss. Welker also walked home for lunch, so the students were left without supervision for that hour! How times have changed!



My Grade One Teacher, Miss Florence Welker

The teacher rang the bell on the school tower in the morning, at 9:00 A.M., noon and 4:00 P.M. Everyone in the neighbourhood could hear the bell, and it was an important timekeeper for the whole community. A small hand bell was located on the teacher's desk. It was only used to call the class to order following indoor recess or lunch hour.

Each day began with the same schedule. We sang the National Anthem, 'God Save the King' in that era. The teacher read a scripture selection that was prescribed by the Ontario Department of Education's Course of Study that was produced by the Minister of Education. We continued by repeating the Lord's Prayer and concluding with a hymn. The health inspection followed that expected: neat hair, clean hands, face and fingernails. This followed with a check up about brushing our teeth and having a clean handkerchief ... (no Kleenex then)! The subjects included Spelling, Arithmetic, Reading, Literature, Composition, Grammar, History, Geography, Science, Health and Writing. Every Friday, we had a spelling test, and memory work when we recited a poem. Sometimes, we had to write the memory verse with correct spelling and punctuation!

I still remember many of these poems! My most favourite poem was 'Indian Summer' that was composed by poet, Wilfred Campbell. In 1924, The Minister of Education for Ontario authorized the book of Shorter Poems that contains this poem. It cost forty cents a copy.

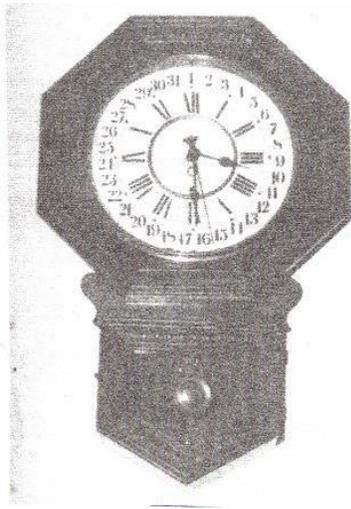
INDIAN SUMMER

Along the line of smoky hills
The crimson forest stands,
And all the day the blue jay calls
Throughout the autumn lands.
Now by the brook the maple leans
With all his glory spread,
And all the sumacs on the hills
Have turned their green to red.
Now by great marshes wrapt in mist,
Or past some river's mouth,
Throughout the long, still autumn day
Wild birds are flying south.

(Wilfred Campbell)

In our one-room rural school, there were Grades One to Grade Eight. The teacher was also entitled to teach Grade IX & X classes. The attendance could register from under ten to more than forty pupils depending upon the location and circumstances. The students started at age six, and remained in school until age sixteen, if they had not graduated earlier. There was not a kindergarten class, however, the five-year old children could attend school with their siblings on special occasions such as Hallowe'en and Valentine's Day to become familiar with the routine and attend the parties!

Classes started at 9:00 A.M. and dismissed at 4:00 P.M. The big clock hung on the north wall and ticked the days away!



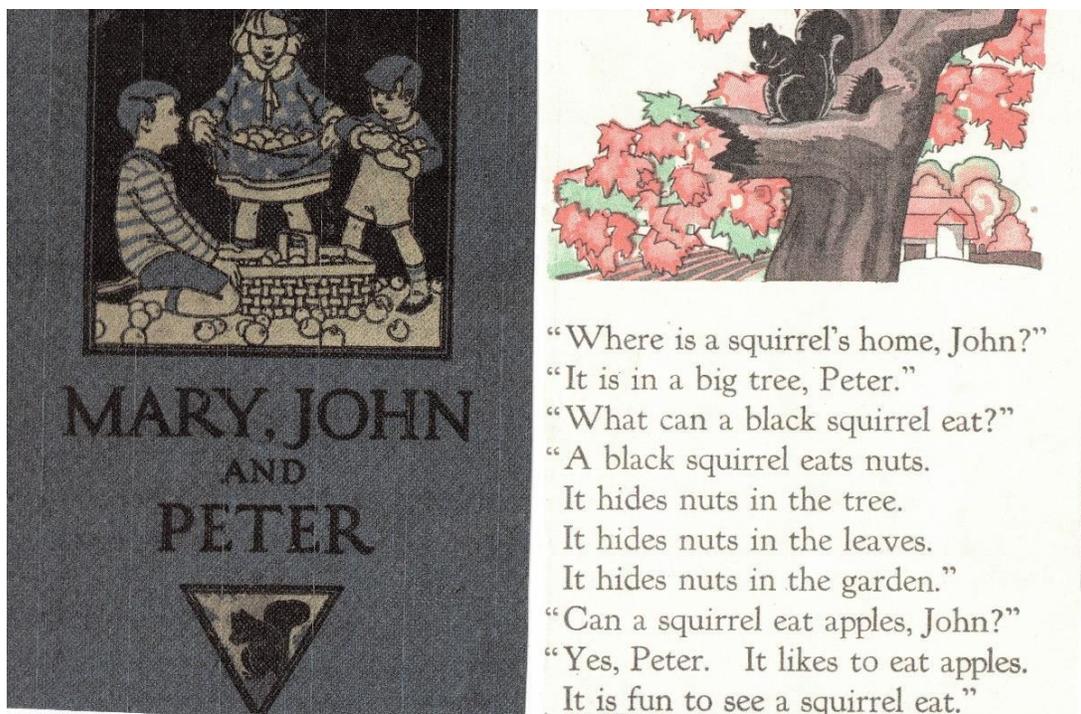
Most rural schools had a similar wall clock.

The Grade One and Two students were dismissed at last recess at 2:30 P.M. and walked home. When I was in Grade One and Two, I had to walk home alone along the #270 sideroad. There were no houses along the sideroad, and it was isolated, lonely and scary. I was always afraid, so I would run like a deer until I was through the willows, then I knew Mom would be watching for me. Occasionally, Bill and Chester Gray would be going to their farm on the 8th Line and I could get a ride on the wagon. The next year Fred joined me!

The teacher had to be very organized to teach all Eight Grades. This was accomplished by having some students work at the blackboard, while the teacher taught a lesson to a class, and the other students did seatwork assignments. In the 1930's and 1940's there were not many resources such as textbooks and printed exercise books. The teacher would print or write questions on the

blackboard and cover them with a big map of the world until time for the lesson. The teacher would prepare seatwork exercises by making duplicate copies using carbon paper. Also, indelible purple pencils could be used to create duplicate copies on the hectograph. Later, Gestetner and Ditto machines were available to make multiple copies quickly. Subjects such as Science, Health and Social Studies could be taught by combining Grades 1 & 2; 3&4; 5&6; 7&8, and the Course of Study could be alternated each year so all the courses were completed. Music and Art usually included all the students. Often, the senior students would assist the teacher by helping the younger children.

When I was a child, I had a difficult speech problem, and as a result I could not pronounce many words properly. During those years, I was teased unmercifully by the school children. This frustration helped contribute to my stuttering problem. In those days, speech therapy was not available to improve my speech. Mom helped and my Grade One teacher, Miss Welker, was very patient and tried to help me with my pronunciation. One day, in our reading class, we were standing in a row by her desk reading about 'Blackie the Squirrel' from the blue 'Mary, John and Peter' reader.



The Mary, John and Peter Reader with Blackie, the Squirrel

I could only say 'squawl' so Miss Welker tried and tried to help me speak properly. I was frustrated and started to cry. I was saved by the lunch bell! Before we ate lunch, all the girls lined up to wash their hands in the same basin of water ... not very healthy! I was at the end of the line, and as Miss Welker was leaving to go for lunch, she put her head over my shoulder and told me not to cry ... everything was alright. I splashed a handful of water into her face. For some reason I escaped punishment!

In that era, each Grade had one Reader that was used all year. We were supposed to read only the story that was assigned for that day! I enjoyed reading, and I think we had memorized 'Mary, John and Peter' by the end of Grade One!

Each student purchased their own textbooks. All textbooks were approved by the Minister of Education for Ontario. Several different companies published the books. "The price printed in the book does not represent the total cost, as an additional sum is paid to the publisher by the Department of Education." When I attended elementary school the following textbooks were used for Reading Classes:

Grade One: 'Mary, John and Peter'

Timothy Eaton Company., Toronto Printed January 1933

Grade Two: 'The Garden of Stories' for Grade Two

The Copp Clark Company, Limited – Toronto Printed 1943 –
Cost 20 Cents

Favourite Poem: 'The Swing' - Page 12

How do you like to go up in a swing,
in the air so blue?

Oh, I do think it the pleasantest thing

Ever a child can do!

Up in the air and over the wall,

Till I can see so wide,

Rivers and trees and cattle and all
Over the countryside _
Till I look down on the garden green,
Down on the roof so brown_
in the air I go flying again,
Up in the air and down!

Grade Three: "Golden Windows" for Grade Three (Pathway to Reading Book III) Thomas Nelson & Sons, Limited Toronto Printed 1949
Cost 20 Cents

Grade Four: "Gateways to Bookland" for Grade Four Copp Clark Company, Limited Toronto Printed 1938 Cost 20 Cents

Grade Five: "Wide Open Windows" for Grade Five Copp Clark Publishing Co., Limited Toronto

Grade Six: "The Treasury Readers" for Grade Six (Third Form, Senior Grades) The MacMillans in Canada, The Ryerson Press Printed – No Date Cost 50 cents

Spelling: English Spelling (American Spelling Different) The Canadian Speller Book One, Grades III to VI - (Forms II to III) By Frank Quance, Ph.D. Printed 1948 W. J. Gage & Company Limited

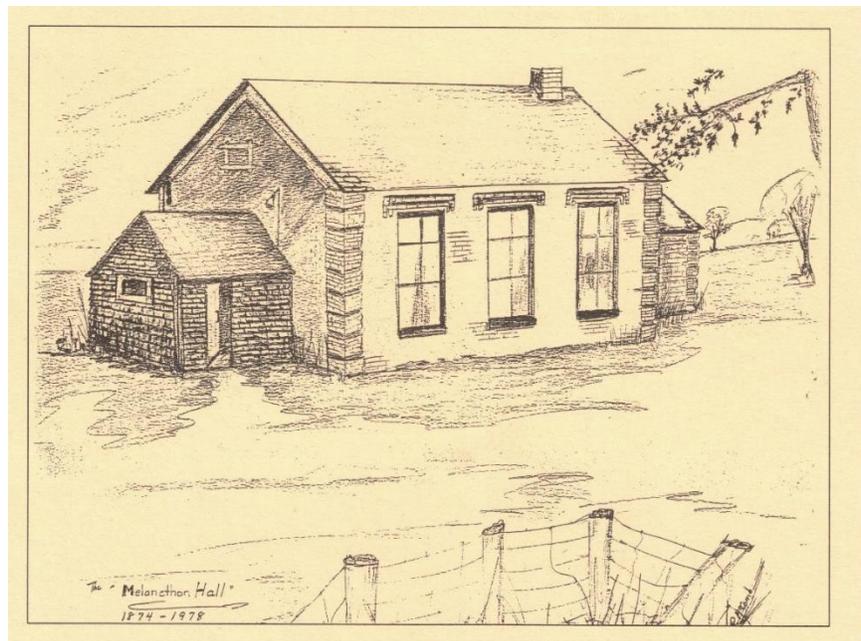
In Arithmetic, we learned the addition, subtraction, multiplication and division tables to develop an essential foundation for success. Memory drills were a daily routine! Students purchased their own copy of the textbooks which were available from Grade Three to Grade Eight.

Grade Three: Junior Arithmetic W. J. Gage & Company Limited, Toronto Printed 1945 Cost 10 Cents

Grade Four: Junior Arithmetic The Educational Book Company, Limited Printed 1945 Cost 10 Cents

- Grade Five: Junior Arithmetic The Educational Book Company, Limited
Printed 1940 Cost 10 Cents
- Grade Six: Junior Arithmetic The Educational Book Company, Limited
Printed 1938 Cost 10 Cents
- Grade Seven: Junior Mathematics The Educational Book Company, Limited
Printed 1947 Cost 35 Cents
- Grade Eight: Junior Mathematics – (Date & Cost missing) W.J. Gage and
Company Limited, Toronto

Each week, the itinerant music teacher, Miss Nellie Gardiner, from Dundalk, would visit the school for lessons. "The Silver Book of Songs" for all grades was published by Gordon V. Thompson Limited, Toronto, Canada and was most often used. It cost \$2.00. In the Fall, we started to prepare music for the Christmas Concert. In January, we would prepare music for the Spring Music Festival. Miss Gardiner would wag her finger in my face and tell me to move my lips, but NOT to make a sound. She was probably right because I was a monotone! I enjoy music, but only make a joyful sound!



The Melancthon Township Hall, Sketch Credit: Rita McComb
The Music Festival was held here each Spring

All her rural schools would gather at the Melancthon Hall, located just west of the Melancthon Store for the Festival. One year the students from S.S. # 10, wore a Scottish costume made from a tartan material. The girls wore tartan skirts, and all the students wore a sash and a wedge hat. Our school sang Loch Lomond, while I mouthed the words! WOW!!



Costumes for S.S. # 10, Melancthon

Shelburne Fall Fair Parade & Melancthon Music Festival

Back Row (L-R): Ken Teeter, Norma Anderson, Mel Teeter, Marjorie Anderson, Betty Smith.

Middle Row (L-R): Bert Scace, Dorothy Scace, David Teeter, Helen Gardner, Fred Anderson.

Front Row (L-R): Gerald Teeter, Marjorie Stogden, Betty Scace, Marjorie Gardner

Every county in Ontario had a Medical Officer of Health, and Dr. Wilson filled that role in Dufferin County, in the 1940's when I was in Elementary School. Dr. Wilson checked the sanitary standards, lighting, ventilation, toilets, and safety measures. The Medical Officer of Health frowned on many of the common procedures!

Dr. Wilson, accompanied by a Registered Nurse would visit the school to provide vaccinations for smallpox, inoculations for diphtheria, whooping cough, and tetanus.

The poliomyelitis (Polio) immunization was available by 1946. I recall the protection for polio was given with a drop of pink serum on a white sugar cube that we ate. This immunization was a miracle advancement. Prior to this successful monkey research, each year, children in Ontario and around the world, would become very ill, crippled or die due to polio. Later, polio was administered through inoculations.

Tuberculosis (TB) testing was available at the Public Health Office. A prick was punched on the inside of the forearm. A pink serum covered the incision, and then one waited for a week to see if a red ring appeared around the incision. If you could see a red circle you had been exposed to TB. My whole family had to receive this test for several years because my Uncle Melville Hudd died from tuberculosis. Members of my family always tested negative! Later, X-rays were available for tests.

Many years later, immunization was available for measles, mumps and chickenpox. By this time, parents were responsible for having their children immunized at the appropriate stages. Parents were required to provide certificates of proof of immunization from either their Family Doctor, or the County Public Health Unit when the children were registered to begin school. This was an important safety precaution to protect all children from communicable diseases.

The Shelburne Fall Fair was always a special celebration that was marked on the third Wednesday of September. Each year, the S.S. # 10 School closed for the day, however, we gathered in Shelburne to march in the big School Parade that started at 1:00 P.M. One year we dressed in our Scottish tartan and won a prize. On our family farm, we all helped pick potatoes in the morning, until it was time to have lunch and hustle off to the Fair. Shelburne was surrounded by a strong agricultural area, and the Fair attracted huge crowds and was very successful!

One day, during the teacher's lunch hour absence, two of the primary students were standing on the library cupboard looking for books. They pulled on the shelf and the whole cupboard and all the books fell to the floor on top of them.

Luckily, they were protected by the books and they were uninjured. We were all frightened, and the older students hastily heaved the cupboard into place. We all scrambled to remember where the books belonged and replaced them on the shelves before the teacher returned! This was only one of the many escapades that happened during the unsupervised lunch hours!



S.S.# 10 Students – Spring 1944

Back Row (L-R): Florence MacDonald, Marjorie Anderson, Fern MacDonald, Norma Anderson, Iris MacDonald, Mel Teeter.

Middle Row (L-R): Helen Gardner, Margaret MacDonald, Dorothy Scace, Betty Smith, Bert Scace, Donald MacDonald, Fred Anderson.

Front Row (L-R): Betty Scace, Marjorie Gardner, David Teeter, Gerald Teeter, Marjorie Stogden

When students were completing Grade Eight, they were required to write High School Entrance Examinations that were prescribed by the Ontario Minister of Education. The students travelled to the nearest High School to write these exams. The following subjects were included: English Literature, English Composition & Grammar, English Spelling, Writing and Mathematics. Students could write the examinations at Easter, and if successful, the students were not required to attend school until the end of June. These students helped on the family farm because many young men and women were involved in the World

War II efforts from 1939 to 1945. If a student was unsuccessful at Easter, they could write the exams again at the end of June. My older siblings were successful and earned this benefit. Following the end of the War on May 8, 1945, the students were no longer required for so much farm labour, so the High School Entrance Examinations could only be written at the end of June. I experienced this transition when I graduated from Grade Eight in June 1947.



**My Grade Eight Teacher, Miss Dorothy Goldman
We became life-long friends.**

I recall our student, Joyce Gray, a 1941 graduate of S.S.#10, who joined the army at an early age. One day, when on furlough, she arrived at the school at noon driving a brown army jeep that had the huge Red Cross Emblem on the door. We were all happy to see her.

In our school, we had a very active Junior Red Cross. We held a meeting every Friday afternoon. We helped to do our part to support the World War II effort. The quilt project was one major event. I have included the complete story that I compiled when the quilt was donated to MoD (Dufferin County Museum and Archives) on November 21, 2023. Later, I submitted a large Junior Red Cross Poster.



Students on the Woodpile - 1943

These students made the Junior Red Cross Quilt

(L-R): Ken Teeter, Dorothy Scace, Helen Gardner, Betty Scace, Bert Scace, Fred Anderson, Vern Anderson, Norma Anderson, Bernice Teeter, Marjorie Anderson.
Absent: Mel Teeter.

Arbour Day, the first Friday in May, was always a very special day. According to the Ontario Department of Education's General Regulations for Public and Separate Schools in 1943 states the following purpose for Arbour Day. "Arbour Day shall be devoted to planting shade trees, making flower beds, and otherwise beautifying and improving the school grounds. On Arbour Day songs, readings, and recitations, designed to cultivate greater interest in trees and flowers and in the study of nature, shall form part of the exercises in all schools."



The S.S. # 10 Students on Arbour Day – 1942

Back Row (L-R): Marjorie Anderson, Miss Madeline McGillvary, (My Grade 3 & 4 Teacher), Vern Anderson, Ken Teeter. Middle Row (L-R): Bert Scace, Norma Anderson, Betty Smith. Front Row (L-R): Fred Anderson, Dorothy Scace, Helen Gardner.

Absent: Mel Teeter

In the morning at S.S. # 10, the students carefully tidied and washed each desk. Everyone helped to clean the classroom, the cloakrooms and tidy the library. When these tasks were completed, we would walk across the #270 sideroad to the bush at the hog's back for lunch and observe the spring flowers and play a few games. On many occasions, we would walk to Riverview to play a baseball game with the students at S.S. # 15 School, who soundly thumped us! The teachers would provide a snack after the game, and we walked back to our school tired, but happy!



S.S.# 10, Melancthon Baseball Team - 1945

Back Row (L-R) Ken Teeter, Marjorie Anderson, Norma Anderson, Margaret MacDonald, Mel Teeter, Donald MacDonald. Middle Row (L-R): Betty Smith, Bert Scace, Fred Anderson, Dorothy Scace. Second Row (L-R): Helen Gardner, Margaret MacDonald, David Teeter, Marjorie Stogden. Front Row (L-

R): Betty Scace, Marjorie Gardner, Gerald Teeter

In 1947, we walked to the U.S.S.# 12 School at Jessopville to play baseball. It was such a long tiring excursion that we decided that once was enough. It was exciting for me because my sister, Miss. Velma Anderson, was the teacher there.



S.S. # 10 played ball with U.S.S. # 12 at Jessopville

Back Row (L-R): Kathleen Wallace, Norma Anderson, Ken Teeter, Fred Anderson, Harold Rolston, Noble Phillips, Mel Teeter, Bert Scace, Ronald Cook.

Middle Row (L-R):Janice McKibbon, Jean Rodgers, Zeta McKibbon, Helen Gardner, David Teeter, Dorothy Scace, Francis (Frank) Hale, Marjorie Stogden.

Front Row (L-R): Gerald Teeter, Dorance Cook, Marjorie Gardner, Betty Scace, & Richard

Along the yard fence each Arbour Day, students planted a maple, elm, or poplar tree and in some areas spruce or pine trees to shelter the building from the winter winds.



S.S. # 10 Students in front of Mature Trees

Back Row (L-R): Ken Teeter, Norma Anderson, Mel Teeter, Marjorie Anderson, Betty Smith.

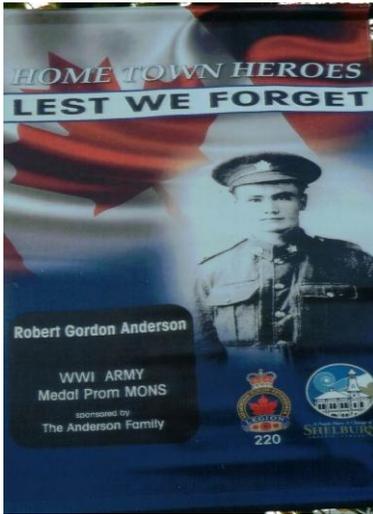
Middle Row (L-R): Bert Scape, Dorothy Scape, David Teeter, Helen Gardner, Fred Anderson.

Front Row (L-R): Gerald Teeter, Marjorie Stogden, Betty Scape, Marjorie Gardner.

Even where no building exists today, or a new structure has been constructed, these trees fencing the property are clear evidence that there was once a school on the lot.

One year, the Public School Inspector, Mr. W. L. Lovell, arranged for the rural schools to gather at Tom Reid's maple bush along the north side of highway # 89 west of Shelburne for a tree planting ceremony. I wonder if that tree survived??

For Remembrance Day on November 11, the school would be closed and families were expected to attend the Memorial Cenotaph Service in Shelburne. Because our Dad was a veteran of World War I, we tried to attend.



The Royal Canadian Legion Number 220 in Shelburne had banners crafted to honour War Heroes.

It is important to mark Remembrance Day as we honour all who helped to bring peace and freedom. From generation unto generation 'We Shall Remember Them'.

The Christmas Concert was the most important event of the school year. The teacher's ability was often judged by the success of the Christmas Concert!



S.S. # 10 Students – Fall 1943

Back Row (L-R): Florence MacDonald, Ken Teeter, Marjorie Anderson, Fern MacDonald, Mrs. Margaret (Bill) Lloyd (My Teacher Gr. 4-7).

Middle Row (L-R): Betty Smith, Iris MacDonald, Margaret MacDonald, Dorothy Scace, Mel Teeter, Norma Anderson.

Front Row (L-R): Gerald Teeter, David Teeter, Donald MacDonald, Marjorie Stogden, Fred Anderson, Bert Scace, Betty Scace

In early December, the students would begin preparing recitations, plays, drills, pantomimes, solos, and learning to sing the Christmas Carols. The week before the concert, the Trustees would bring a tall spruce tree that touched the ceiling! Students would create decorations by making puffballs from coloured tissue paper, string popcorn and cranberries to make ropes to drape the branches. We cut stars from gold or silver foil to decorate the tree. There were only a few glass balls that were repeatedly used. Pinecones and icicles completed the trimming. Coloured crepe paper streamers were strung across the classroom to add a festive appearance.

A few days before the concert, white bed sheets would be collected and strung on wire across the front of the classroom to create a stage and change rooms.

The night of the concert, the pupils along with their families, would arrive on the team and sleigh. The horses were sheltered during the concert in either Bill Gray's or Joe Fluney's stables. Late arrivals were blanketed and remained tethered by the woodshed!



**The Anderson Family Ready
for the Sleigh Ride**

**Seated: Norma, Marj., Fred,
Mom,**

**Standing: Cousin Ida
Atkins, Velma, Bob, Vern**

Without electricity, kerosene lanterns were hung from the ceiling on long hooks. Great care was required to avoid fires. Due to the lack of indoor plumbing, water was brought to the school in cream cans. Water in a kettle would be placed on the top of the stove to heat during the concert so tea could be served!

The little schoolhouse would be filled to an overflowing capacity as the appreciative audience cheered the performances! The Nativity Scene was followed with all the students together singing several Christmas Carols. The programme concluded with the singing of Jingle Bells as Santa arrived to distribute a gift and a bag of candy to all the students and visiting children.

I remember the Christmas that our teacher, Miss Florence Welker presented the students with a very long toboggan ... such a wonderful gift!

As the families boarded the sleighs for their return home, the cold temperature did not chill the excitement, and laughter as they recalled the happy memories of a successful and enjoyable Christmas Concert.

During the winter, because of this great toboggan, when weather conditions cooperated, we combined our recess time with the noon hour. This added extra time so we could walk to the big hill on the back of Harry Scace's farm to toboggan. The teacher did not accompany us! When it was time to return to the school, the teacher waved a scarf on the broom handle. One day, we saw the waving signal, but decided to ride down the opposite side of the hill and pretend that we did not see the flag. As a result, Mrs. Lloyd gave us a stern scolding and confiscated a few days of our privilege on the hill. What a wonderful toboggan!

The Ontario Minister of Education, Mr. Bill Davis introduced legislation to take effect on January 1, 1965 to eliminate 1,541 School Boards in the Province. The Township would be the smallest unit for a School Board.

As a result, The Melancthon Township School Area Board was implemented January 1st, 1965. This reduced the seventeen Rural School Boards to just seven! This new Board included Doug Turner, Chairman, Elizabeth Atkinson, Secretary-Treasurer, and Trustees: my Dad (Gordon Anderson), Jack Oldfield, and Aubrey Webster, and others may have joined. With the expansion of the Board in 1966, Dad resigned, after serving as an S.S. # 10 Trustee for many years!

Due to the small student enrolment in several of the rural schools, a new system was created. Students from Grade Five to Grade Eight in nearby schools attended S.S.#10, Melancthon with Mrs. Marian Phillips as the Teacher. Students from Grade One to Grade Four attended S.S.# 14 at Corbetton, Ontario with Mrs. Anne G. Patterson as Teacher. This same arrangement included the other Melancthon Township Area Rural Schools. Some schools were vacated. Later, the Melancthon Township School Area Board amalgamated with the Amaranth Township School Area Board (created on January 1, 1947), to form the Melancthon-Amaranth Township School Area Board. On December 21, 1967, the remainder of the rural schools were closed. On January 1, 1967, the Melancthon-Amaranth-Shelburne Township Area School Board was formed. The first consolidated elementary school was constructed in 1967. Mr. Peter D. Godbold, the first principal of Centennial Hylands Elementary School, became involved with this Board in March 1967.

One night, when Pete returned from one of the **many** very late Board Meetings, he mentioned that the Board was trying to determine the best way to dispose of all the closed rural schools. I suggested that before a decision was made that Bill Holton, a professional photographer in Shelburne, should photograph each rural school. Pete accompanied Bill as they photographed most of the schools. When Pete became extremely busy, he asked Jim Taggart, to guide Bill to the remainder of the Amaranth Schools. Pete had all the rural schools placed in a single frame, and displayed on the wall, inside the front entrance at Centennial Hylands Elementary School. Through the years, many individuals have taken copies of these valued photographs.

The Melancthon-Amaranth-Shelburne Township Area School Board Members were: Ray Hardick, Chairman; Aubrey Webster, Vice- Chairman; Doug Turner, Secretary-Treasurer; Trustees: Gerald McConnell (Shelburne); Jack Oldfield, (Melancthon); Ed Mountford (Amaranth). This new Board had office space in the former Shelburne High School until later it became the Dufferin County Board of Education and relocated to Orangeville, Ontario.



Centennial Hylands Elementary School 1968

On January 8, 1968, the students from the rural area, and students from Grade Four to Grade Eight entered their ultramodern school for an exciting new beginning! Students from Kindergarten to Grade Three attended the Shelburne Junior School. Nineteen bright orange buses provided transportation on a very frosty January morning.



One of 19 school buses that arrived on January 8, 1968

The longtime Principal, Mr. John Dinwoody and his Grade Eight Class remained at the Shelburne Public School where they completed the year, and Mr. Dinwoody remained as principal there until the end of June in 1968. In September 1968, Mr. Dinwoody joined the Centennial Hylands Staff, and the former combined Shelburne High School and Public School became the Shelburne Junior School



Shelburne Junior School – 1968

The Official Opening of Centennial Hylands Elementary School was held on Wednesday, June 5, 1968. The first principal was Mr. Peter D. Godbold. Consequently, all the former students from S.S. # 10, Melancthon continued their education at the Shelburne schools.



Official Opening, June 5, 1968

Photo Credit: Holton Studio, Shelburne

Board Members and Officials taking part:

Back Row (L-R): Reeve William J. Irwin, Shelburne; Jim Kennedy, Contractor; Jack Oldfield, Trustee; Aubrey Webster, Board Vice-Chairman; Reeve Eldon Marshall, Melancthon Township; Reeve Arnold Burnside, Amaranth Township; Millet Salter, Architect; Ed Mountford, Trustee; Gerald McConnell, Trustee; Douglas Turner, Secretary-Treasurer.

Front Row (L-R): Charles Gabel, Area Superintendent; Ray Hardick, Board Chairman; R.W. McVittie, Guelph, Guest Speaker; John Root, MLA, Wellington-Dufferin; Dufferin Warden Roy Hillis and Principal Peter D. Godbold.

With the advent of consolidated schools, many of these rural schools have been renovated and are comfortable homes now. The S.S. # 10 schoolhouse has been demolished, and an attractive private home has been constructed on this property.

As I reflect on my eight years as a student at S.S.# 10 Melancthon, I believe it was a privilege to have gleaned my early education at a one-room rural school. I extend my appreciation to my sister Marjorie (Anderson) Perkins for sharing our memories and hilarious laughter as we reminisced, and to my daughter, Jane Godbold, for her assistance with this project. During the following years, many transitional changes occurred at S. S. # 10, Melancthon, and I have included the

final stages including the closure of the school. I am extremely grateful that the positive attitude and basic skills nurtured at S.S. # 10, Melancthon have helped guide me through my ninety years. I trust that you will enjoy my memories, as you recall your own!

Respectfully Submitted with Blessings,
Norma Jane (Anderson) Godbold