



Township of Melancthon
Heritage Advisory Committee
One Room Schoolhouse Project
S.S. #12
Jessopville School
By: Member James McLean



Background

SS#12 is located on Highway 89 north of Grand Valley, Jessopville was settled in the mid 19th century.

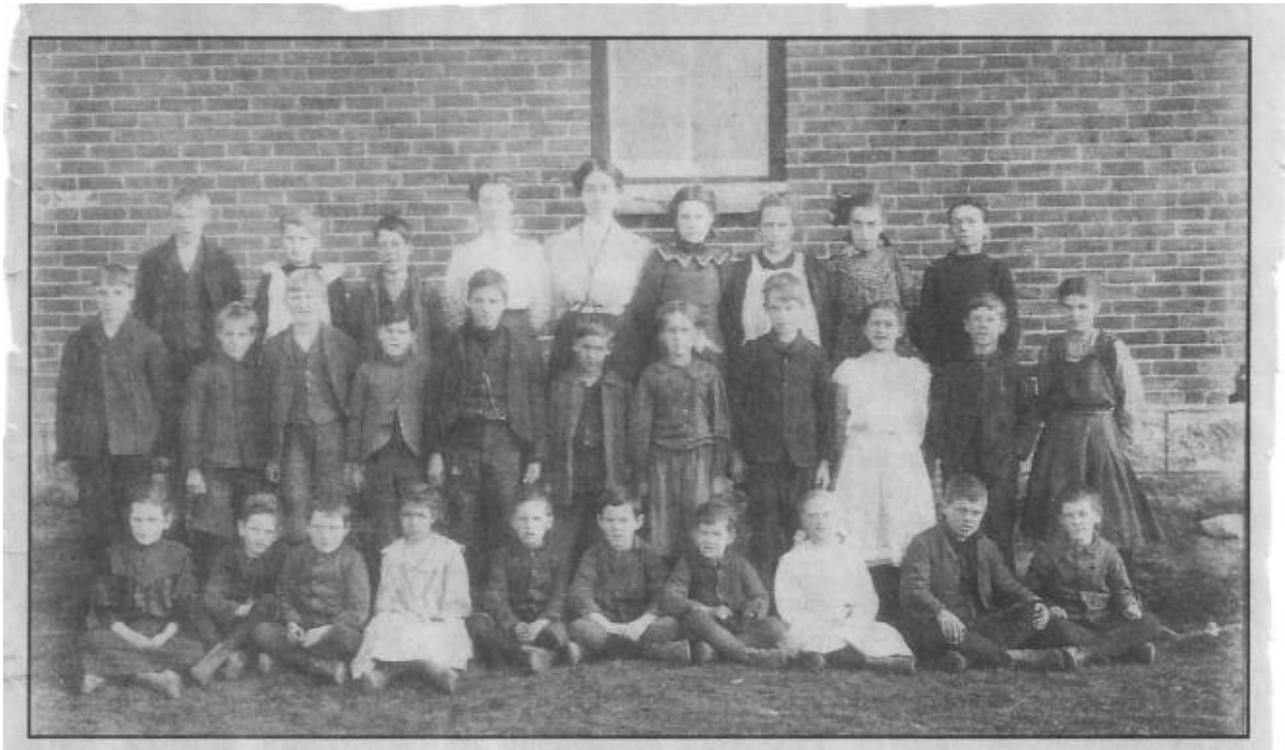
At its height, approximately 30 people lived in the village.

In 1887, a log school was built for this school section. In 1899, Ms. Minnie Jamieson took charge of the Jessopville school. The Shelburne Economist noted that "The people of Jessopville have secured in Miss Jamieson a good teacher and we would be very much surprised if she did not prove a very successful instructor as she possesses the necessary elements for a successful teacher."

In 1903, the log school was replaced by a brick school. The brick school was an upgrade including a planetarium, indoor toilets, teachers' desk, library, cupboards, a dictionary, a bible, and three fire extinguishers. There was an A Hallows Eve party that was held in the afternoon of October 31st. The party was often attended by community members as well as the students. In 1925, the school section was expanded. In 1966, the school was closed. The structure is still visible today, although it has fallen into complete disrepair.



This photo was taken in 1966-1967 with the teacher, Grant Bruce. The names of the children were not documented.



This photo of students at SS #12 Melancthon was taken around 1904. Art Hale is sitting cross-legged in the front row, second from the right. He was about seven at the time. Art ran the Jessopville store, where the post office was located in the 1940s and 50s, and perhaps into the 60s. (Art's son, Frank, moved to B.C. in 1962 and married and live the rest of his life there, dying in 2012). The photo was submitted by Marian (Stausser) Phillips, who taught at the school from 1949 to 1951.

Students' names: Back row – H. White, Jeanette Tipping, Les Orvis, Ida Connor, Miss Blair (teacher), Alvina Orvis, Myrtle Davison, Maggie Watt, Sid Firth, Middle row – Ern. Kelsey, Gordie White, Elmer Armstrong, Gordie McDougall, Cecil Wardell, Fr. White, Edith Davison, M. Wardell, Unknown, Jennie McDougall Front row – Jessie Corbett, Wallace Tipping, Stan Davison, Florence Orvis, Unknown, Unknown, Unknown, Annie Armstrong, Art Hale, Unknown.



In addition to the public school, Jessopville had one Methodist church, a general store, a telephone office, and the Union Butter & Cheese Factory. Pictured below is the Union Cheese and Butter Factory, which employed local residents.