

The History of S.S. No. 1 Minto

Going back beyond the establishment of this School Section, we find that Fergus was settled in 1834, and the settlers coming into our county pushed on north from Fergus into what was known at that time as "The Queen's Bush." The land in the vicinity of Arthur was next settled and it was in the years of 1852-1856 that the first settlers arrived in this section.

Possibly we can imagine the hardships they were called upon to endure, the loneliness, the never ending forest, the howls of the wolves at night and many other trying experiences.

Their first task was to cut the logs for their new homes, then to clear the land for gardens and crops. Game was plentiful, of course, and helped out as food.

To these hardy settlers and their able helpmates this community owes a debt of gratitude for the inheritance that we enjoy today.

In those days the old toll gate in this section did a lively business in the way of collecting fees from the travelling public.

However, the hardships previously mentioned, proved beneficial, for when our troubles are greatest, we draw closer together. We can imagine the early settlers meeting together to discuss the need of a school for the education of their children. As a result of this meeting the first school for this section was erected at what is now known as Cotswold Corner. It was a log building and very primitive in style. It was known as School Section Number One, Minto Township.

In 1871 it was found necessary to rearrange the entire school sections of the Township. As a result a new school was erected on the west corner of Lot 96, Concession C, then owned by Malcolm Ferguson. Owing to the fact that so many settlers in the section kept bees, this school later became known as "Beehive" later went out into the world to fill important positions. This section became a popular centre for sports and picnics. "Beehive" picnic was probably the most largely attended picnic of any other held in the Township.

During the Great War of 1914-1918 a number of our brave boys donned the khaki. Those serving overseas were: George Armstrong, Thomas Rankin, Milton Hughes, Fred Smith, George Carter, Lloyd Bramhill, and Leonard Kirk. The latter three paid the supreme sacrifice. A beautiful marble tablet was placed in the school as a sacred memory to the fallen heroes. During the war, a strong Red Cross Society was organized in this section, and contributed generously to the needs of the boys in France.

The Silver Jubilee of King George V and Queen Mary was fittingly
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celebrated in the school on Friday May 3, 1885. A programme was given by the children, a Jubilee tree was planted by A. Fyfe assisted by the scholars, and a patriotic address was then given by Mr. T.G. Cosens. The flag was raised and saluted and the programme was closed by the singing of the National Anthem.

On November 17, 1935. The Memorial Table was unveiled by Colonel Pritchard of the 153rd Battalion. Mr. L. [Hanel] Cook gave a very stirring address and Rev. J.A. Wilson conducted the devotional exercises. This was a very impressive service.

Names of the early Settlers

Lot	Concession "C"	Lot	Concession "D"
91	Mr. Moore	91	John McManus
92	J. Young		Robert Ballantyne
93	J. Bolton		Thomas Carscadden
94	Captain Bateman	92	Peter McDougall
95	Archie Sinclair	93	B. Darcy
96	Malcolm Ferguson	94	Thomas Simpson
97	Archie Ferguson		Robert Wilson
98	Donald Malloy	95	Allan McDougall
	Malcolm Malloy		George Reeves
99	Malcolm McBellan	96	Robert Fyfe
100	Duncan Gillespie		Peter Fyfe
101	John Gillespie	97	Donald Ferguson
102	James Gilbraith	98	Archie McBellan
	J. McConnel	99	Alexander McBellan
103	William Turner	100	Angus Gillespie
104	William Hughes	101	James Russell
		102	Thomas Hayes
		103	J. Anderson
		104	C. Hughes
	Concession 4		Concession 5
18	George Bramhill	18	Henry Suddaby
17	Donald Campbell	17	Archie Ferguson
16	John Campbell	16	John Ferguson
15	James Burnett	15	James Campbell
14	William McLean		
13	Joseph Ferris		Concession 6
		19	William Taylor
		12	Concession 7
		13	Gilbert Darroch
			Thomas Russell

Following this History was a list of all teachers who have taught in this School Section, Number 1, Minto. I have not taken the space to enumerate these names.

I am sending the above History for the teachers to emulate. All teachers will send me a history of the school in which he or she teaches. This will be send with the March Attendance Report and will be written on foolscap.

L.P. Menzies
I.P.S.