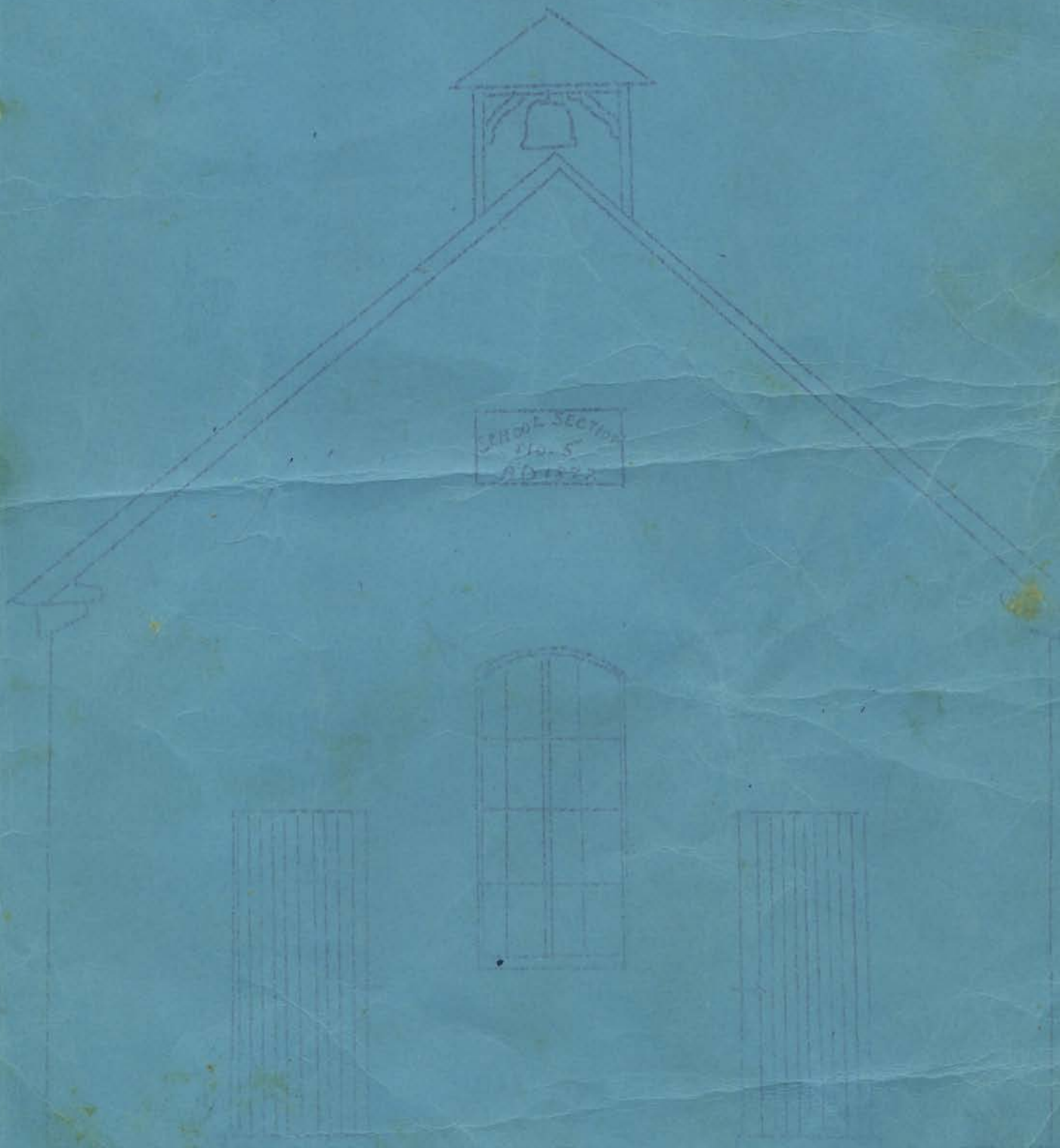


HISTORY OF DISTRICT N. E. NO. 3, TRAMOSA



SCHOOL SECTION  
Plan 5  
1913

## HISTORY OF S. S. NO. 5 ERAMOSA

Situated in the north corner of Eramosa Township is a fertile and prosperous community known as S. S. No. 5. The history of this district goes back over 100 years but, as many of the records have been lost, it is difficult to write a complete story.

An early map dated 1850 shows that occupied farms in the district were very widely scattered, only about a third of them being taken. However, in 1856, land was bought from John and Ann Awrey for 5 shillings, (about \$1.25), and a school was built. At that time the section covered the present one and part of sections 4½ and 6. The deed stated the district was in the Province of Canada.

The first school was burned and was replaced by a log building with four windows, two on each side. This school stood a few yards north of the present one. As more and more of the fertile lands were claimed, this school house was soon found inadequate and, in 1872, more land was purchased and the present school was built. However, the old log school stood beside it for thirty years and was used as a woodshed, from which the big boys had to carry wood to fill the wood box which stood at the back end of the new school. The old school also served as a place to play and to perform acrobatic stunts on rainy days or for ante-ante-over on sunny ones. It was torn down in 1902 and used for firewood. The land for the new school was bought for \$50. from James and Sarah Mitchell, who kept the first store in the district. The deed was witnessed by James Rea, one of the pioneers of the district. Before this time, the river was dammed and a saw mill was built by James Huxtable and several houses were built on the north side of the road. The saw mill was sold to Nickolas Lynett and he kept the first post office. The name Shiloh was chosen by Mr. John Leslie, grandfather of Cecil and Leonard Leslie, who had bought the land on both sides of the road at an earlier date.

The last teacher in the old school and the first in the new was Phoebe Hindley, an aunt of Earl Hindley. She was followed by James Grant who taught here for eleven years and, after having taught in other schools for several years, returned to the district to farm and serve in the community. Mr. Grant built a fine frame house in the village and chose a bride from the district to live in it, namely Euphemia Rea, daughter of James Rea.

The population of the district continued to grow until there were as many as 90 pupils on the roll and over eighty in attendance. The whole school space was filled with seats as the lobbies were on the outside. The seats were built for two but often three had to be crowded in. The school was heated by a large box stove that roasted those who sat near it, but the heat did not reach the little ones who sat at the front and they had to shiver themselves warm. The pupils did the janitor work and after lunch was eaten the room had to be swept. This had to be done in a hurry, as a ball game was waiting, and many spots of dirt remained in the corners or around the desks, and the dust that was made rivalled the threshing floor.

The water supply was always a problem and, although wells were dug, water had to be carried from the pumps in the village. The pail was clean when new but never afterwards. As water was at a premium, a child took a dipperful, drank what he wanted, and put back the rest in the pail. As there was no basin or towels, hands were never washed. The pupils used slates instead of workbooks. Apart from the noise made by the clatter of slates on the desks, they were most unsanitary. The children spat on the slate and, if a slate cloth was not handy, the sleeve of dress or coat filled the need.

The school was large and discipline was strict. Money was scarce and no strap was provided, so the teacher cut canes from the cherry trees across the road, and some

can well remember the thrashing of three large boys when three canes were broken in pieces on their hands. It is not known what the crime was or whether the punishment fitted it.

In Mr. Grant's time, a branch of the Patrons of Industry called the Grange was started in Shiloh. It was a co-operative farmers' movement. Groceries and other necessities were bought wholesale and Mr. and Mrs. Grant took charge of their distribution. The Grange was quite a going concern for some years and had its own seal which is on display today.

The next teacher was Henry Nesbitt, a young married man who lived with a small family in the house built by James Grant. He remained in the district for seven years and the trees in the school yard which he planted stand today as a memorial to him.

Another early teacher was John Skinner who taught for three years for the fabulous salary of \$200. He was compensated, however, by getting a wife in the district - Agnes Wood, who lived with Jas. Rea.

The inspector who served the district for many years was Col. J. J. Craig. He was a very excellent inspector who kept the teachers on their toes. He would drive up, stick his head in the door and shout "Is there a boy to put away my horse?" The horse was usually wild and the teacher had two problems to worry her - the safety of the boy and the fear of the inspector. The inspector would then take a chair behind the desk and apparently go to sleep, but let there be a wrong answer or a misdemeanor he was wide awake. His writing was very poor indeed and, once when he wrote a sentence on the board full of grammatical errors and asked "What is wrong with that sentence?" one small girl replied "The writing is bad". However, the little girl was pretty and he was only amused and said that wasn't the only fault.

Smallpox was not unusual in those days, and at one time a doctor and his brother came to vaccinate the whole school and young people in the district. All were vaccinated with the same instrument with nothing to sterilize it. A thumb was used to staunch the blood. However, no serious trouble developed but many sore arms were suffered.

Among the pioneer settlers of the district were the names, Rea, Hamilton, Leslie, Sanderson, Wishart, Rutherford, Talbot, Weatherstone, Scott, Cox, McCann, Adsett, Heffernan, Melon, Farrell, Beechinor, Hindley, Lynett, Duffield and Oakes. Of these, only three names remain on the school roll - Leslie, Hindley and Rutherford.

Down through the years, war with its horror upset the community - the Fenian Raids, the Boer war, World War One, and the Second World War. Many from S. S. No. 5 fought for freedom and served their country. Two boys, Ted Hayward and Douglas Wheeler made the supreme sacrifice.

We cannot name the numerous graduates of the school who have gone out to hold positions of honor and responsibility. They include teachers, nurses, dentists, farmers, clergymen and many other vocations administering to the mental, physical, spiritual and material needs of humanity.

The school has kept pace with the changing conditions. During Mr. Nesbitt's time the school attendance had reached its peak and a new section 4½ was formed. This took all the pupils from Oustic and the 4th line district. Partitions were then put in at the back of the school and coat hangers and shelves for lunch boxes put in. From time to time other improvements were made - new desks were put in - new blackboards replaced the blackened walls - the ceiling was lowered - a furnace

Board was elected and now Shiloh School which has served the district for over ninety years is to be closed and the children taken to other schools where teachers and fewer classes can render better service. The old school has influenced the lives of many of us and to it we owe a debt of gratitude and can look back with pride on what the school has done for the community.

If those voiceless walls could only speak  
Of the days that have passed, the tales of yore,  
The friendships made, and the sorrows shared,  
Of those who have crossed to that far off shore.

Memories of teachers, strict and stern,  
In pensive moments, our thoughts renew.  
Beneath the veil, their souls were kind,  
Their minds were wise, their hearts were true.

Teachers who taught from 1872 - 1962 included:

Phoebe Hindley	Miss Orchard
James Grant	Miss Fee
Susan McCollough	Miss Lee
John Skinner	Miss Wilkie
Wm. Burr	Miss Robinson
N. Ireland	Mrs. A. Wilkinson
Margaret Armstrong	Miss Mollison
James Wilson	Miss Strong
Miss Phillip	Miss Cook
Welcome Shaw	Miss Major
Wilbur Hindley	Miss L. Pickering
Miss McIntosh	Mr. Thomson
Miss Manderson	Miss Stallwood
Miss Dougherty	Miss M. Leith
Miss Stapleton	Mrs. H. Mackay
Miss Kate Freure	Miss Murison
Miss H. Hindley	Miss I. Armstrong
Miss McQueen	Mr. R. Hodgins
Miss Balderson	Mr. L. Angles