

HISTORY OF U.S. S. No. 1, SAUGEEN, ARRAN AND ELDERSLIE

[excerpts of a 6 page booklet]

By John Scott, July 1934

In preparing this brief history of U. S. S. No. 1, Saugeen, Arran and Elderslie, we are somewhat limited in our sources of information. Some records are believed to have been burned in the old school building. We are unable to locate any minutes of meetings prior to the organization and appointment of trustees. Doubtless, if some of those who were instrumental in originating the section were still living, other interesting facts could be told. As it is we are indeed grateful to Mr. John T. Richardson for his assistance in securing information.

Pupils Attended Other Schools Before *This Section was Organized*

Before the establishing of the section, pupils from this district had to walk long distances to other schools. Some attended at Burgoyne, others at the Elora road school north of Paisley; and a few went to No. 1, Arran and No. 8 Elderslie. As this was inconvenient, and as Dunblane at that time was quite a thriving centre, an agitation was started to establish a union school section, taking in parts of the townships of Saugeen, Arran and Elderslie.

This School Section Established by By-law, May 15th, 1881.

No doubt a great deal of time and work was expended before this could be brought about. Each of the townships affected had to be interviewed and by-laws prepared and passed. On May 15th, 1881, a by-law was passed by the Saugeen Township council for the purpose of establishing a new school section to be known as U.S.S. No. 1, Saugeen Arran and Elderslie.

Site Purchased and Building Contract Let

Following this, the present site was chosen and purchased from Mr. John Wallace at a cost of \$47.00. The contract of building the school was awarded to Mr. Joseph Langstaff for the sum of \$630.00. By the end of the year, the school was ready for occupancy. It was a frame structure and somewhat similar to the present edifice but was perhaps more crude, and of course, lacked modern equipment. Mr. Langstaff, who built the school, is still hale and hearty although in his eighty-seventh year.

School Opened February, 1882

School was first opened in February, 1882. By the end of June there were seventy enrolled and by the end of the year seventy-seven. The following are the names of the pupils recorded in the first register

Inspector's Visits

The inspectors visit twice each year has always been an important feature of school life at Dunblane as at other schools. During the 52 years since the school section was instituted only three inspectors have visited us. Mr. Campbell was the inspector for the first few years, followed by Mr. Chisholm, and for the past 24 years Mr. W. F. Bald has performed this duty in his very capable manner. Mr. Bald now arrives in a modern automobile, but at one time the Inspector used a horse and buggy as a means of travelling. On his arrival two of the older boys always deemed it a privilege to be chosen to stable the horse at a nearby farm. Usually it was some time before they returned as this errand required more time than is generally necessary. Much to their delight they would be in class only a short time when once again they would be sent, this time to fetch the horse.

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