

Melancthon in 1865

In connection with the publication of "The Backwoods' Life" it may be interesting to the present residents of the municipality to give a short and concise sketch of the schools, churches, etc., at the time the book was published. W. F. Munro, the writer of the book failed to mention some of the first families who were prominent in the early days. Such pioneers as the late Wm. Silk, John McGhee, sr., Richard Polley, Samuel Polley, Hugh Polley, Elijah Page, Stephen Hudd, William Hudd and others.

In 1865 the municipal council was as follows:—Reeve, Robt. McGhee; Councilors, Charles McDowell, James Slack, Lawrence Breen and John Culliton. Kenneth McCauley was clerk and John Mills, treasurer.

There were seven public schools and one separate school in the township. The teachers at that time were:—

No. 1.—T. F. Holdship.
No. 2.—W. F. Munro.
No. 3.—Geo. Leitch.
No. 4.—Miss Brunker.

No. 5.—Robt. Russell.
No. 6.—Miss Jane Ludlow.
No. 7.—Miss Isabella Brunker.
R.C. Sch'l.—Miss Margaret Purtil.

Two of the lady teachers are well known to many of the readers of THE FREE PRESS. Miss Jane Ludlow is the wife of Geo. Rutledge of Horning's Mills, and Miss Margaret Purtil is Mrs Jas. McCue of Dundalk, until recently an esteemed resident of Melancthon. There were three churches in the township, the Episcopal Methodist and Wesleyan Methodist at Horning's Mills and a Roman Catholic church in Melancthon that stood west of the Gravel Road. The latter church was replaced by a brick one built in 1879.

As "The Backwoods' Life" dealt principally with the settlers of the Old Survey, we give in alphabetical order a list of the freeholders and householders at the time of its publication:—

—A—

Wm. Allan Bowley Arnold
Henry Armstrong Mathew Armstrong
James Adamson Wm. Airth
Robert Allen Joseph Anderson

—B—

John Barkwell Henry Bates
Francis Berry John Broderick
Geo. Broderick Chas Bates

—C—

Edward Creech Robert Coulter
James Cave James Clark
John Cummins James Campbell
James Campaign John Clow
Geo. Charters John Curphey

—D—

John Dutchburn Sylvester Doan
Wm. Dynes Chris. Dynes