

1832.

WEST GWILLIMBURY. John Garbutt taught the first school on the eighth line of this township, and was succeeded by Eli Hough. (Hunter's "Simcoe," I, p. 282.)

DUNDAS. Benjamin Meade was one of the early teachers of Dundas. His school was in Dumfries, and it was here he first began to teach, while his last school was old Number Eleven in Williamsburg, 1871.

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SCARBORO. The first school to be opened in School Section number seven was located on the Fishery Road. It was an ordinary square building, constructed of plank, built in 1832, and its first teacher was John Wilson, an Englishman from Yorkshire.

LONDON. London had an early private school which was taught by a Mr. Taylor. He was a very poorly educated man, scarce able to master the simple rudiments known as the three "R's," likewise a very unhealthy person. He was assisted by his wife, whom Sheriff Glass has described for us as "a tough, wiry little woman with less education, but more energy" than her husband, with whom she also shared her labours when he was making lath, a business which they combined with teaching. The Sheriff tells us further that, "The schools were opened by the persons themselves as a private enterprise, without government or municipal aid." (Erma-tinger's "Talbot Regime," p. 286.)

WOLFE ISLAND. This township is a portion of Frontenac County to-day and lies to the south of the mainland, and at the foot of Lake Ontario. Some twenty-one miles in length and seven in breadth at one point, it constitutes one of the several large islands situated in the headwaters of the St. Lawrence River. Mr. R. M. Spankie, in a paper read in Queen's Convocation Hall on the History of the Island, says, "In 1833, the first school was opened in a house situated at the foot of Lambert's Hill, named after an early resident, about half a mile from the village. It was a log structure, without a floor at first; the only furniture consisted of a few wooden benches without backs, with a particularly high bench for writing on, at which the pupils would stand or kneel as best fitted their size. Ten years later a school was opened for the foot of the Island. Such was the state of travel that parents were known to accompany their children to school in the morning and upon their return homeward to blaze a trail for the youngsters to follow at night."

It is evident from all of the foregoing that the pioneers of Upper Canada were almost unanimous in adopting measures for the education of their children. That a common school education was the just and perfect right of all, had become a settled point in their plans for establishing the institutions of a great and free nation. The government of the country would require men of sound intelligence and executive ability, the exercise of which became the duty of all for the common good.