

At the former date of 1805 the Children attended School in a Log House, situated about one and one-half miles east of the Village. In the year of 1830, however, the Village was made a School Section in Mosa, and a Frame Building—a square Cottage—was erected on Hagarty Street.

About the year 1840 the first Public School was established in Wardsville; and, as the Country prospered, the need of better educational facilities was sorely felt, and Wardsville, being a trade centre for a large tract of Country, it was soon looked upon as an Educational Centre.

The Old School Building rendered ample accommodation for many years, but in the early fifties the establishment of a Grammar School was projected. Plans were prepared in 1855, according to which a Brick School House was erected on a pleasant Site in the northern part of the Village. About this time the Village was made a High School District, comprising the Village of Wardsville and School Section Number Four in the Township of Mosa.

Among the promoters of this establishment were the late Messieurs Alexander Ward, John H. Munroe, Henry Henderson, H. R. Archer, and Charles O'Malley.

The first High School Teacher was the late Mr. Hart, who was followed by Mr. Bryce, a connection of the present British Ambassador to the United States. The third Teacher was Mr. Sinclair, now of Sarnia. Mr. McCabe succeeded him, and he, in turn, was followed by Mr. T. W. Crothers, the present Representative for Elgin County in the Dominion House of Parliament.

About this time the Public School was in charge of the late Mr. Duncan Johnson, who conducted it successfully for a period of twenty-six years. During a part of this time he was ably assisted by Miss H. Brooks.

In 1877 the School edifice was destroyed by fire, when many valuable records of an historic nature were consumed. Steps were at once taken to replace the loss with a more commodious Building, which, with its attractive surroundings, still bears evidence of the interest taken by the community in educational matters. The number of Pupils of this School, who have been successful in the various walks of life are numerous in the Province.

The teaching Staff at the present time is composed of Miss M. Ada Dickey, B.A., of Toronto, Principal of the High School, assisted by Miss Caverhill, while the Public School is in charge of Mr. J. Ambrose Dowswell. The School to-day is in active operation in all of its Departments.

WARDSVILLE, February 17th, 1910. J. AMBROSE DOWSWELL, *Principal*.

Miss Maria Murray (afterwards Mrs. McAlpine) in a letter written to the Editor of this Volume, says:

I commenced teaching in the Village of Wardsville at the age of fifteen as an Assistant in May, 1855, and continued teaching there until Midsummer, 1858. The School House at that time was a Frame Building, and a Frame House, on the opposite side of the Street, was rented for the accommodation of the second School. In my Department I had Pupils from the First to the Third Book. I was furnished with a Blackboard, but no Maps. The late Reverend John Gunne—a Church of England Minister—a highly educated and clever old gentleman—was Superintendent of Education for the Township of Mosa at that time, and visited my School. The Books used were the Irish National Series for Reading and Arithmetic, Lennie's Grammar and Morse's Geography.