

Pioneer Schools of Upper Canada

By
FRANK EAMES



Reprinted from Ontario Historical Society Papers and Records, Vol. XVIII.

NORTH YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY
MAIN

Pioneer Schools of Upper Canada

Report of the Superintendent of Schools for the Year 1871

WINDSOR: WINDSOR BOOK BINDING CO. 1872

1872

XIV.

PIONEER SCHOOLS OF UPPER CANADA.

By FRANK EAMES.

The essential function of the common school is the faithful development of character and executive habits in the child. The child of normal birth has executive, reflective and receptive possibilities, in some degree equal. If the two latter are trained, and the former slighted, in the child, one may deem it as a weakling hurled into the maelstrom of life, where it is invariably overwhelmed by disappointments. If a child's receptive powers enable it to reflect, any ultimate good which might accrue from its mental activity is doomed if it cannot execute the thought. Hence the need of the school to develop the child's executive powers.

The first healthy sign of awakening in a new community is evinced when decisive action is taken in behalf of intellectual, moral and spiritual uplift. Crude and humble may have been the edifices erected for the propagation of religion and education, and yet from beneath their roofs and from within their precincts have emerged the youth who have been the hope and pride of the country for more than a hundred years; by their statecraft and oratory Canada has been elevated to a proud position among nations in a brief space; by their deeds of arms in the field she has won not only mere glory and honours, but the respect of all noble and refined races as well as the awe of the most unscrupulous.

The humble roofs of the early Common Schools of Upper Canada sheltered children whose natural will and executive abilities won them positions during their lives, the memory of which will be imperishable so long as the pen of history may trace their lineaments.

This paper is intended to give a more intimate knowledge of those early edifices, affording to the teachers of history a ready reference list, showing when and where, throughout Upper Canada, the first schools were located and organized. Such meagre details of their inception as my opportunities have afforded, are here given to both student and teacher. The annexed data is too much dispersed throughout the county and local histories and archives to give ready information; so that, although there is still a lack of completeness which is perhaps regrettable, yet it is hoped the compilation may prove sufficiently useful to warrant some approval of both the effort and the idea.

In the Canadian Archives Report for 1889, page xxi, 3rd paragraph, we are informed that the Rev. John Stuart was a teacher in Montreal and later became the earliest teacher in Upper Canada. The paragraph, in part, reads as follows: "The earliest teacher in Montreal of whose life there is any definite information was the Rev. John Stuart, afterwards first Anglican clergyman at Cataragui, now Kingston. He was born in the Pro-

vince of Virginia, in 1736, according to Hawkins; Sabine says 1740, and was ordained in England, returning in 1770 to Philadelphia, from which place he was sent to the Mohawk Valley as an Indian Missionary.**

"In the following October (1781) he was, however, in Canada, and opened an academy in Montreal for youth, in conjunction with Mr. Christie." (*Ibid.*)

"The warrants show that the Government allowance to him was £50 sterling a year, continued until he left to become chaplain at Catarauqui." (Page xxii.)

"The great desire of Mr. Stuart appears to have been to settle at Catarauqui, and in February, 1784, he wrote twice to Major Mathews, pressing his request. In April, he had engaged a substitute to take charge of his school during the time he proposed to be absent. In July he reported that he had visited Catarauqui, where he obtained a lot within a mile of the barracks, and had spent some time among the Indians. The Society had left to himself the choice of the place of his future residence, but had reduced the salary he had received as missionary to the Mohawks from £70 to £50 for the new station, and he asked if he was to obtain the office of Chaplain at Catarauqui. In 1786, says Sabine, he opened a school at Kingston, which agrees with the indications afforded by the warrants, the last of which, for his salary as schoolmaster in Montreal, is for the six months from the first of November, 1785, to the 30th April, 1786, for £25, equal to £50 a year; the first for his salary "as Minister of the Church of England at Catarauqui" for the six months beginning on the first of May, 1786, and ending on the 31st of October, for £50, being double the salary as schoolmaster. It is unnecessary to follow Mr. Stuart further, as he ceased from this time to have any connection with the work of education in Montreal." (*Ibid.*, p. xxii.)

Dr. J. G. Hodgins, in his valuable history of "Schools and Colleges of Ontario, 1792-1910." (Chap. I, par. 2, page 1, Part I) gives the date of the first school established in Upper Canada as 1785, which refers to the "Select Classical School." But the date of the same event seems to be more correctly given as 1786 in Dr. Hodgins' "Documentary History of Education," Vol. I, p. 30. The Rev. Mr. Stuart's lament in a letter to an old friend in the United States in 1785 is, "The greatest inconvenience I feel here, is there being no school for our boys." (Canniff's "History," p. 330.)

THE LIST OF PIONEER SCHOOLS.

1786.

KINGSTON (Catarauqui). Enough has been set forth to establish the fact that the first school in Upper Canada was taught at Kingston by the Reverend John Stuart, who commenced his work immediately following the first coming of the U. E. Loyalists. A Mr. Donovan taught the Garrison school there at the same time. Ryerson Memorial Volume, by J. G. Hodgins,

*Henry J. Morgan, in his "Sketches of Celebrated Canadians", states that the Rev. John Stuart was born on the 24th Feb., 1740, at Harrisburg, in the State of Pennsylvania. La Rochefoucault (see Ont. Archives Report, 1916, p. 74), also gave Harrisburg as Mr. Stuart's native place.

LLD., p. 38 (1889). La Rochefoucault mentions in his *Travels in Canada*, 1795, the school at Kingston, where, he says, the scholars paid one dollar per month. (Canniff, p. 331; and Ryerson Mem. Volume, p. 38; also, Ontario Archives Report, 1916, p. 75.)

FREDERICKSBURG (Bay of Quinte). Mr. Clark, the father of Major Clark of Edwardsburg, Dundas County, was the teacher. (Canniff, p. 330.)

ERNESTTOWN (Bay of Quinte). A Mr. Smith was the teacher. (Ryerson Mem. Volume, p. 38.) Rev. John Langhorn, a Church of England Missionary at Ernesttown and Bath from 1787 to 1812 was also teacher of a school there. (Ryerson Memorial Volume, p. 40. See also Ontario Hist. Society's "Papers and Records," Vol. I, p. 13, for sketch of Rev. Mr. Langhorn, by Thomas W. Casey, and his parish registers.)

1787.

GRAND RIVER. In Colonel Stone's "Life of Joseph Brant," page 398, under the year 1795, referring to the Chief's appreciation of the great value of education, there is the following statement: "In his first negotiations with Gen'l Haldimand after the close of the war, he made provision for the erection of a Church and Schoolhouse." On page 431, under the same year, the following statement appears: "One of his first stipulations with the Commander-in-Chief on the acquisition of his new territory, was for the building of a Church, a Schoolhouse and a Flouring Mill." Again in reference to the Grand River School, on p. 49 of the Canadian Archives Report (1889), from a report on the state of religion in Canada written apparently in 1788, we learn that "There is a Settlement likewise of the Six Nations, at a Village upon the Grand River, 40 miles above Niagara, who stipulated with General Haldimand that Government should build them a Church and furnish them with a Minister and Schoolmaster. Sir John Johnson has already established the latter, and pays him."

1788.

MATILDA (Dundas County). From the "History of Dundas," we learn that Mr. Clark, above referred to as being at the Bay of Quinte, "arrived with his family in Montreal, in the year 1786, and proceeded to the Bay of Quinte. He remained two years at the Bay, employed in teaching. In 1788, he came to Matilda, Dundas County A few of the neighbours assisted in the erection of a school house, in which he taught for several years. This was the first school in Dundas County."

ADOLPHUSTOWN. Playter states: "In the year 1788, a pious young man called Lyons, an exhorter in the Methodist Episcopal Church, came to Canada, and engaged in teaching a school in Adolphustown," "upon Hay Bay, or the Fourth Concession." Quoted in "History of the Settlement of Upper Canada," by William Canniff, M.D. (1872), p. 331.

1789.

PORT ROWAN (Norfolk County). A school was taught here by a gentleman called Deacon Traves, who was also a Baptist Minister.

1791.

FORT MALDEN (Essex County). Gottlob Senseman, a Moravian Church layman, teacher. See Rev. John Morrison's paper in Vol. 12, page 176, Ont. Hist. Soc. "Papers and Records," "David Zeisberger and his Delaware Indians." The Rev. gentleman states (p. 177) that, "He, (Zeisberger) after negotiations with the British Authorities, led his band of Delaware Indians into Canada, in 1791, spending one year on the bank of the Detroit River, where Fort Malden was afterwards built." During this year's residence at the site of the "Warte, or Watch Tower," it is evident that school was taught. From David Zeisberger's Diary, which is published in the above article, there is an entry (p. 187) under date of Saturday, September 10th, 1791: "Mr. Dolson came from the Thames, bringing his two children to put them to our school, of which Bro. Senseman was teacher."

NAPANEE. In Canniff's "History of the Settlement of Upper Canada," page 331, Mr. Robert Clark says, "My boys commenced going to school to Mr. Daniel Allen Atkins on the 18th of January, 1791."

1792.

NEWARK (Niagara). The Rev. Robert Addison taught at Newark in this year. (Ryerson Memorial Volume, p. 38.) Rev. Mr. Addison was the Episcopalian minister at the seat of Government at Newark (Niagara).

BAY OF QUINTE. The Rev. John Stuart, soon after going to Kingston, took steps to secure and place a school teacher among the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte. According to one statement this role had been filled by the Missionary himself, he having, according to certain stipulations, divided his activities between the Loyalists and the Indians. The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel had arranged and set aside, for the teacher's maintenance, the sum of £30. According to Canniff's "History" (p. 314), the precise time when this school was opened it is impossible to determine, and he adds that the first reference to it is in a letter "written by John Bininger, then living in Adolphustown, to his father, the Rev. Abraham Bininger of Camden, New York." The letter bore date, Sept. 18th, 1792, and states that "Being in Kingston, I heard, as it were accidentally, that the Rev. John Stuart wanted, on behalf of the Society in England, to hire a teacher for the Mohawks up this Bay, accordingly I made an offer of my services." Mr. Stuart accepted the offer, John Bininger giving his employers notice of his desire to make a change; they, however, refused to release him for two months, after which he removed to the Mohawk Village (p. 315). From an old account book the following was taken, referring to John Bininger:—"November the 13th (1792) moved from Adolphustown to the Mohawk Village."—Canniff, p. 315. "Mr. John Bininger ceased to be a teacher to the Mohawks some time in the latter part of 1795 or first part of 1796."—Canniff, p. 317. In 1796 one William Bell was the schoolmaster to the Mohawks of Quinte. (For several letters from the Rev. John Stuart to Mr. Bell regarding the Mohawk school, see Canniff's "History," pages 317-319.)

1793.

MORAVIANTOWN (Township of Zone, Kent County). David Zeisberger's settlement on the River Thames. Rev. John Morrison's paper (previously quoted) (Ont. Hist. Soc., XII, p. 189.) Zeisberger's Diary states: "Dec. 26th, 1792. All the brethren went out to cut, square and split timber into boards for a schoolhouse." The next item but one bears date "Jan. 10th, 1793. Our schoolhouse finished." Oct. 14th: "Our schoolhouse covered with clapboards." David Zeisberger's diary also has the following:—"Towards evening, March 31st (1794), Governor Simcoe arrived with a suite of officers and soldiers and eight Mohawks, by water from Niagara. He at once asked for our schoolhouse as a lodging. It was cold, having snowed through the day. He was much pleased when Bro. Senseman offered his house, where he, together with his officers, then lodged. Two of his officers had been here with him last year. The soldiers lay close by in the schoolhouse, but the Mohawks were divided between two Indian houses." (*Ibid*, p. 192.) In 1796 an item reads, "Feb. 22nd. Our young people who go to school are so set upon it, they make it their chief business and prefer it to everything. Went and cut wood for Brother Senseman at his sugar hut, so he might not be hindered by work from keeping school. Many of them can write a good English hand."

1794.

NEWARK (Niagara). Rev. Mr. Burns opened a school here, he being also the Presbyterian Minister. Ryerson Mem. Vol., p. 38. Mr. Richard Cockrel opened an evening school in Newark in 1796. (Ryerson Mem. Vol., p. 38, also Canniff's "History," p. 331.) From the Ryerson Memorial Volume, p. 38, we also learn of a Mr. James Blayney opening a school at Niagara in 1797.

1796.

ANCASTER. In 1796 or in 1797, Mr. Cockrel opened another school, viz., in Ancaster, having transferred his school at Newark to the Rev. Mr. Arthur. (Ryerson Memorial Volume, p. 38.)

1798.

TORONTO (York). William Cooper taught what appears to have been the first school established here, situated on George Street. Hodgins' Ryerson Memorial Volume, p. 38.

1799.

ADOLPHUSTOWN. Ex-sheriff Henry Ruttan has left us some information regarding the first school of this locality, which he attended when he was seven years of age. (Canniff's "History," p. 331.) Mrs. Cranahan taught the school to which he was sent. She is the first woman teacher of this Province of which there is a record. Teachers at other places near there bore the several names of William Faulkner, Thomas Morden, Jonathan Clark. He further stated that there was an evening school some five miles away. (Canniff's "History," pages 331, 332.)

ST. CATHARINES. By an Act of the Legislature of Upper Canada, "To provide for the Education and the Support of Orphan Children," an Orphan School was established near St. Catharines. (Ryerson Memorial Volume, p. 39.)

1800.

BROCKVILLE. Adiel Sherwood taught a school near here according to Canniff (p. 275), but whether it was at the old "Tin Cap," or at the Hallock schoolhouse, is not made clear. (See 1811, near Brockville.)

KINGSTON. John Strachan, a name destined to remain prominent as a founder and scholar, left his schoolhouse in Kettle, Scotland, where he was the master, to recommence his career in Kingston, U.C., where he arrived on the last day of the year, 1799. Upon the foundation so well and truly laid by his worthy predecessor, John Stuart, along educational lines, John Strachan expected to establish a college which it had been proposed to erect during the Simcoe regime; the Governor having left for England, the proposed College project had been abandoned, for a time at least. Mr. Strachan thereupon entered into an understanding with the Hon. Richard Cartwright (grandfather of the late Sir Richard) and Mr. Robert Hamilton to open a school in which, beside instructing their sons, he was to be privileged to give tuition to ten others, the fees to be ten pounds sterling from each per annum. John Strachan remained at this post three years, during which time he proceeded to apply himself to the study of Divinity. He was ordained in 1804 and removed to the Mission at Cornwall, where at the request of the parents of his former pupils, he established a private school and later a Grammar School, and from their portals there emerged three men who respectively became the worthy recipients of the honours of their King and country: Sir John Beverley Robinson (Chief Justice of Upper Canada, 1829); Sir J. B. Macaulay (Chief Justice of the Common Pleas), and the Hon. Jonas Jones (a puisne judge). The Rev. John Strachan became the well known Bishop of Toronto in after years. (Ratray's "Scot in British North America," Canniff, Hodgins, Morgan's "Sketches.") When Barnabas Bidwell removed from Bath to Kingston in 1813, he continued his occupation of teaching, and taught at the latter place for twenty years until he died in 1833. (Ryerson Mem. Volume, p. 40.) The Midland District Grammar School at Kingston was incorporated in 1815. (*Ibid*, p. 40.)

1802.

NIAGARA. A Mr. and Mrs. Tyler taught school in the near neighbourhood of this place; the exact site of which I have been unable to learn. (Ryerson Memorial Volume, p. 38.)

TORONTO (York). The Classical School conducted by Dr. Baldwin came into existence at this time. (Hodgins' Ryerson Memorial Volume, p. 38.)

1803.

GRASSY POINT (Bay of Quinte). The first school was taught here by John James. (Canniff's "History," p. 332.)

HIGH SHORE. At this locality (Township of Sophiasburg, Prince Edward County) a school was carried on by a Mr. Salisbury. (*Ibid*, p. 332.)

VITTORIA (Norfolk County). The Rev. Dr. Egerton Ryerson is authority for the statement that a Mr. Mitchell taught a school here in 1803.

KINGSTON. John Strachan opened another school at this place.

1804.

CORNWALL. It was in this year that Dr. Strachan opened the school at this place. (Ryerson Mem. Vol., p. 38.) The Rev. Robert Baldwin was appointed Grammar School Master at Cornwall in 1814, *vice* Rev. John Bethune, resigned. (*Ibid*, p. 40.)

1805.

MYERS' CREEK (Belleville). Rev. Wm. Wright (Presbyterian) opened its first school this year, according to the authority of Dr. Hodgins, following Canniff's "History" (p. 332). (Ryerson Memorial Volume, p. 38.) This gentleman was succeeded by a Mr. Leslie.

SCARBORO. "James Elliot's house was utilized by an Englishman named Mr. Pocock, as a school, in the year 1805; it was the first school in the township and stood on lot 22, concession D, in the extreme north-west corner of the present section 9. The first schoolhouse built in the township was on the Springfield farm, near the line between lots 23 and 24, concession I, and within a few rods of where the Church of St. Andrew's now stands." David Boyle, Scarboro, 1796-1896.

1806.

ERNESTTOWN. In the second concession a Mr. Smith was tutor of a school at this period. (Canniff, p. 332.)

HAY BAY. School was taught in a log house here by a Mr. McDougall. (Canniff, p. 332.)

1807.

MYERS' CREEK (Belleville). James Potter succeeded teacher Leslie, referred to under "1805."

TORONTO (York). Rev. Geo. O'Kill Stewart, D.D., was appointed, by Governor Gore, Headmaster of the Home District Grammar School at York. This school was opened the first Monday in June. It stood in a field north of Adelaide Street, containing about six acres, bounded west by Church Street, east by Jarvis Street. The building was a plain wooden structure about 55 feet long and some 40 feet wide. The appointment was signed by Governor Gore. Hodgins' Ryerson Memorial Volume, p. 39. In 1812, the Rev. John Strachan succeeded the Rev. Geo. O'Kill Stewart, as Headmaster. (Ryerson Memorial Volume, p. 40.)

1810.

ELGIN (Leeds County). Township of South Crosby, County of Leeds. The first schoolhouse was built about 1810 or 1811. "Leeds and Grenville." (Leavitt.)

PRESCOTT. Major Jessup, immediately following his completion of the survey for the townsite, made preparation for a schoolhouse. Leavitt's "History of Leeds and Grenville."

1811.

JOHNSTOWN DISTRICT. Seven miles west of Brockville there dwelt a minister known as the Rev. Mr. Halleck or Hallock (both modes of spelling the name are to be found in the two authorities available) and it was at the home of this gentleman in all probability that the school existed. That it did exist we are informed in Leavitt's "History of the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville." According to a paper by Holly S. Seaman on the missionary labours of the Rev. William Smart, that Rev. gentleman visited at the Hallock School and preached there for twenty-seven consecutive New Year's days and at the old "Tin Cap" schoolhouse the same number of Christmas days. Page 184, Ont. Hist. Soc. "Papers and Records," Vol. 5 (1904).

BROCKVILLE. Sometime prior to 1812 the first settler permitted the use of a room in his house for a school. The gentleman was Wm. Buell, and the teacher's name was Joseph Pyle. Mr. Sylvester succeeded him and an Indian scholar, Paul J. Gill, came next to Sylvester. The Indian had been educated at Dartmouth College. Leavitt's "Leeds and Grenville."

BATH. Barnabas Bidwell in 1811 conducted a Latin School at Bath on the Bay of Quinte until he removed to Kingston in 1813. (Ryerson Mem. Volume, p. 40.)

1815.

GANANOQUE. Information regarding the first school in Gananoque, for which steps were begun in 1815, is singularly complete. The one point not quite clear is, that of two persons making proposals to teach the school, we have no documentary evidence as to which one was accepted as the first teacher. The documentary evidence of its foundation in 1816 has been published, and may be found in Vol. 17, Ont. Hist. Soc. "Papers and Records," in an article entitled "Gananoque's First Public School, 1816," by Frank Eames. Col. Joel Stone reports in 1818: "One good frame building erected and finished for a schoolhouse." This report, I have reason to believe, while made at a meeting called by Gourlay, or proposed by him, never reached that gentleman, and was one of several which he did not receive, other districts having also defaulted.

MIDLAND DISTRICT. Andrew Lorrimer taught a number of scholars in 1816 at a school located ten miles west of Kingston, according to Carter's work on the County of Dundas, which is my authority for the statement.

1817.

SCARBORO. In school section number one, the first schoolhouse was of logs, built on lot 13, 3rd concession, in 1817. The first teacher was a Mr. Edward, whose successors to the number of seventeen are to be found mentioned in David Boyle's "Scarboro, 1796-1896."

BLENHEIM TOWNSHIP. In Oxford County, one authority states, there is but one school.

Burwash's life of "Egerton Ryerson," page 55, has the following statement: "Mr. Gourlay collected statistics of no less than 259 Common Schools already in operation, and these were by no means the whole number in the Province in 1817." From Gourlay's census of 1817, for a period of ten years (1827), the number of schools increased to 340, while the number of scholars is recorded at the latter date to have been from 12,000 to 14,000.

1818.

JOHNSTOWN DISTRICT. In South Crosby there is one schoolhouse, doubtless the one at Elgin, recorded under "1810." (Reported for Robert Gourlay.)

In Kitley Township also there is one schoolhouse reported for the Gourlay Meetings.

1819.

MATILDA TOWNSHIP. Mr. Alex. McFarling, School Section No. 1. This was held at "Flagg's." (Carter's "Dundas.") James Croil, in his "Dundas," which he published in 1861, says on page 141, "The duty of instructing their children seems from the very earliest time of the settlement to have been recognized, and although of necessity a few years elapsed without a schoolhouse, yet from the very first they had their schoolmaster. A good old German, whose name we cannot recall, gratuitously spent his time in going from house to house teaching, two weeks at a time in different neighbourhoods." On page 144, Croil continues, "Before the close of 1792, the settlers in Dundas had erected two churches, and established several schools."

SCARBORO TOWNSHIP. The late David Boyle, in his "History of Scarboro," page 194, states that "Among all the dominions who have exercised sway in this township, Thomas Appleton deserves special notice. He was a Yorkshireman and a Methodist, who came to Upper Canada in 1819, and began to teach school the same year in Scarboro, remaining here for twelve months."

1820.

TORONTO (York). Joseph Spragge, father of Chief Justice Spragge, opened the Central School at York in this year and became its master. A very keen interest was shown by Lieut.-Governor and Lady Sarah Maitland in this school which was founded as a Church of England, or National, school. (Ryerson Memorial Volume, p. 40.)

1822.

BATH. The academy at Bath which had been so ably conducted by Barnabas Bidwell until his removal to Kingston in 1813, was in a prosperous state in 1812, when the war upset and deranged the whole fabric which had been gradually reared after the turmoil of the revolution. Upper Canada was slowly but surely rising from wilderness and emerging into the light of civilization, but soon all was changed and teachers were warriors once more. At the commencement of war the academy classes were broken up and scattered. The academy building was transformed into a barrack and the rattle of accoutrements took the place of the call to prayer and the classes. Unfortunately the end of strife saw no revival of the school's former status until 1822, "when the building was once more transformed and utilized as a place of public worship and a common school."

GRAND RIVER. Stone's "Life of Brant," page 527, under date of 1822, states that, "it was the design of young Brant (this would be John, the son of Chief Joseph) on his return to Canada to resuscitate and extend the schools among his Nation." On page 531 of the same authority also appears the following: "In my next I shall draw on you for the amount appropriated for the building of the Mohawk and Oneida School Houses, as also for the School Master at Davis's Hamlet. As you have not mentioned Laurence David's, I shall continue to draw for his salary as usual, out of the two hundred pounds appropriated by the Corporation in 1822. In my next I will tell you how the Scholars get on."

(A letter from the Mohawk Village, Grand River, U.C., 1828, to James Gibson, Esqr., Treas. of the New England Corporation, London.)

DUNWICH. John Pearce's home became the first pioneer school here, and Thomas Gardiner its first teacher for a term of six months. (Ermainger's "Talbot Regime.")

1823.

WEST GWILLIMBURY. The Scotch settlers erected a log school-house on lot 8, con. 6, to be also used as a church when occasion required. Lieut.-Gov. Sir Peregrine Maitland once visited this school and addressed the scholars. The first teacher was Mr. William Moffat. (A. F. Hunter's "History of Simcoe County," Vol. I, p. 281.)

SCARBORO. There is some doubt about the exact year and the exact location, so far as the concession number is concerned, of the first school in Section number 5. Local tradition says that the school "was known as the Squaw Village School," (see Boyle's Scarboro, page 187, in the footnote), and although the teacher is not named for this year we have it that "A Mr. Carruthers taught in 1824." This building was erected on the Northwest corner of lot 26. In school section number 9, the first school-house is stated to have stood on lot 18, concession D. ("Scarboro, 1796-1896," page 191.)

1824.

DUNWICH. In the home of John Miles Farlane, scholars were taught the rudiments of education, and it was in this year that a schoolhouse was

erected on the farm lands of Mr. Backus, in which at least three of the Ladd family became masters, their Christian names being Alvro, Lemuel and Phural, respectively. (Ermatinger—"Talbot Regime," page 285.)

SCARBORO. The site of one of Scarboro's early schools was on the side road between lots 34 and 35, concession C, and nearly in front of the Thompson home. It was erected about 1824. The first teacher is not now known, but a Mr. Fitzgerald taught in this school in 1826. (See Boyle's "Scarboro," p. 189.)

1825.

ST. THOMAS. The Rev. Alex. McIntosh is presumed to have been the first dominie in a school erected at this time in St. Thomas. He is referred to as having been the probable choice of the Rev. Dr. Stewart. It appears that a few individuals, chiefly farmers, had guaranteed the payment of one hundred pounds sterling per year for three years for the maintenance of a school, and in this year the school was reported to be in operation under the superintendence of a young gentleman from the Lower Province. (See "The Talbot Regime," page 287. Ermatinger, 1904.)

1826.

CREDIT RIVER (Mississauga Indian Mission.) Egerton Ryerson having been appointed to the Credit Indian Mission, took up his work among them in the middle of September, 1826. A quotation from his diary describes his first days among the natives as follows: "In one of these bark-covered and brush-enclosed wigwams, I ate and slept for some weeks, my bed consisting of a plank, a mat, and a blanket also for my covering; yet I was never more comfortable and happy." Again he says: "I feel an inexpressible joy in taking up my abode with them. I must acquire a new language to teach a new people." Ryerson was soon to show his qualification for the task before him by assuming the role of master builder. In less than ten days after his arrival among the Indians, it was resolved to construct a building which should answer the dual purpose of church and school. The Indians, though very poor, responded to the resolve with readiness, and although but two hundred in number they nevertheless subscribed one hundred dollars toward the building in less than one hour. (See Burwash's "Egerton Ryerson," in the Nation Builders Series, page 21.) At the expiration of six weeks the edifice was completed and paid for, thanks to the great enthusiasm of the young missionary, who rode to the Hamilton, Niagara, Yonge Street, and York Circuits until he could secure the sum required. That he found gratification and reward for his efforts seems certain since later he reports in his diary, "I am very certain I never saw the same order and attention in any school before."

GRAPE ISLAND (Mississauga Indian Mission). Grape Island and Huff's Island (or at this date of 1826, "Logrim's") were leased for a period of 999 years for the sum of five shillings. Fifteen Indians signed the indenture, which was dated Belleville, October the 10th, 1826. The above islands comprised some sixty-one acres, and upon Grape Island, the smaller of the two, a village was projected and constructed. The first winter

many Indians camped at Grape Island, since the dwellings were not yet up, and these were visited by two itinerants and two interpreters. Jacob Peter, with William Beaver, taught them the Lord's Prayer, also the Ten Commandments. The tribe numbered some 130 persons, ninety of them being adults. From the Kingston band some forty arrived in May that spring. A school and meeting house was erected in July, 1827, 30 feet long by 25 feet in width. William Smith was the first teacher and he instructed thirty scholars in the day school. These grew to fifty for the Sabbath School. (See Canniff's "History of the Settlement of Upper Canada," pp. 325-7.) The Report of the Methodist Episcopal Missionary Society of the United States for 1829 says that "Fifty children are taught in the schools." This would imply at least that another school had been added to the mission. Lorenzo Dow, visiting there in 1829, writes under July 29th regarding the good conduct of the children.

PETERBOROUGH. The pioneer school of Peterborough was called the Union School. It was commenced in 1826 and was a log structure with shingled roof. Tradition has it that the Rev. Samuel Armour taught the pupils. (Poole's "Town and County of Peterborough, 1867.")

1827.

HAMILTON. John Law taught the district school here in 1827. It was at this school the future head of Ontario's Educational activities received a part of his education. (Durand's "Reminiscences.")

RICE LAKE AND MUD LAKE MISSIONS. Burwash, in his life of Egerton Ryerson, states that in 1827 the missionary was appointed to Cobourg Circuit, but that, "the Indian work at the Rice Lake and Mud Lake Missions was an object of his care." We may feel certain that the word "care" covered instruction to children, especially when associated with so energetic a nature as Dr. Ryerson's.

BAY OF QUINTE. Dr. Oronhyateka, in his Address to the National Education Association, in Toronto, 1891, says: "The Government established a school for the Six Nations Indians at Bay Quinte, 1827. (Page 235, Proceedings.)

CROWNHILL. William Crae was the first to teach in a log school erected here about 1827. The structure was erected on lot 10, on the Oro side. (Hunter's "History of Simcoe County," Vol. I, p. 285.)

1828.

LONDON. A Mr. Van Every opened the first school in the new town after its survey and establishment as the capital of the district. This school was maintained in the temporary jail and courthouse. (Ermatinger's "Talbot Regime.")

1830.

SCARBORO. The increase of population led to the erection of an additional schoolhouse. This was constructed of logs, on lot 25, concession 3, and its first teacher was James Little. (Boyle's "Scarboro.")

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.

1833.

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.