

**HISTORY OF  
MAPLE GROVE  
SCHOOL**

**S. S. No. 9, WEST ZORRA**



TIME INDEED CREATES AND DESTROYS AT WILL

THE PAST IS GONE. THE FUTURE BECKONS AHEAD

The pioneers brought with them determination and faith in God, to make this land a worthy home for them and their descendants. Their Bible came with them and was read in each home night and morning, in Gaelic, and the desire for education was one of their characteristics. After providing for their bare necessities the Church and the school were built.

Through years of hard toil and privations, log houses and barns were replaced with good buildings of brick, stone, and frame. Corduroy and plank roads gave way to better roads.

Since the close of the first war rapid progress has been made in the introduction of labour saving devices. New inventions such as radio and television have come in. The hydro and telephone have made life much more pleasant and livable. Woods have gradually disappeared and the grater part of the farms are in cultivation. Horses have been replaced by tractors and automobiles and all kinds of machinery and stock and field crops have been improved.

This history is dedicated to all who attended Maple Grove School and to all who have lived in this section through the years. Each one has made a contribution to the community.

#### EARLY HISTORY

On January 1st, 1800, the County of Oxford consisting of Blandford, Blenheim, Burford, Oxford-on-the Thames, Norwich and Dereham Townships was constituted. Parcels of land in Zorra had been granted prior to 1820. It and also Nissouri were added to the county of Oxford in 1821. Several Spanish words were given to townships at that time. Zorra was the Spanish word for "female fox." In 1822, Zorra was organized with a clerk, assessors and a tax collector. At that time there were 55 land owners in all of East and West Zorra with a total of 145 acres cultivated, and owning 14 horses, 44 oxen and 84 cows.



By 1851, three roads were in operation, the first being what is now Highway 59 and the 16th line north of Woodstock. Toll gates were put up to pay the cost.

The pioneers made their houses from logs trimmed with an axe and built without nails. Zorra was divided in 1845 into East and West Zorra and as the settlers became established, sawmills sprung up and standard of living rose with their prosperity.

From the very beginning every community in Zorra had made some provision for educating their children. A few settlers would club together and raise enough money to buy some nails and a few panes of glass. Then they would have a bee to erect a building on one of the farms of the pioneers. Often no deed was secured for the property. School was kept open more or less regularly during the winter months. All were needed on the land during the summer. They had to grow crops to have food. Sometimes a teacher was secured, from another district, who boarded around, staying a week or two with each family. He would receive for his services, besides board, a few dollars a week, which was raised by the families sending children to school, according to the number of children sent. When the family was large and also poor, the children would be sent to school week about, so that all might learn a little.

#### HISTORY OF MAPLE GROVE SCHOOL

In 1859, a request was made to Oxford County Council to build a school on Lot 16 Concession 7, West Zorra to be known as S. S. No. 9 and 50 pounds were granted. The land was donated by Robert McIntosh. If and when it ceased to be used as a school the property was to revert to the farm.

Previous to that there was a school on the Bailey farm, 9th line, south of Waltons and later on the corner of the Anderson farm. This was later torn down and incorporated into a drive barn on the same farm. Records do not tell when this school started but on ages of some who went, it must have been before 1850. This school was not under supervision of the government but merely one that was operated by the early settlers.



Thomas Oliver, lot 20, con. 8, and later M. P., taught in this school for 2 or 3 years. It ceased operation early in 1859 and for the rest of the year pupils from S. S. No. 9 attended a similar school, Lot 9, Con. 8, a mile north of Golspie. This school had only a dirt floor, the walls being of mud and logs. The story is told of a snake crawling in and causing great excitement until killed by the teacher. This school was dismantled when S. S. No. 9 was built and some of the pupils from this school came north to the new school. To both the 9th line and 8th line schools, children walked long distances through the forest with only a blazed track for a guide.

Records do not tell if any of the erection of Maple Grove School took place in 1859 or not but it was opened in 1860 and most of the work was done with bees. It was first called McIntosh's School but as years went on the name was changed to Maple Grove, in keeping with the maple trees which surrounded it. The foundation was stone and sided with boards running lengthwise. The section went north to Lot 21 and west to the 4th line.

When S. S. No. 10 and S. S. No. 6 Youngville were built in 1866 the boundaries of Maple Grove were changed to what it is to-day.

The first teacher was D. H. Ross a brother of James Ross, who lived where Earl Day lived. He married Barbara Forbes. The second was John L. Murray, an uncle of the late Mrs. W. W. Murray. In 1862, the Oxford Gazateer records the McIntosh School as having 112 pupils with an average attendance of fifty and Mr. Murray as teacher.

The third was John Scott who only stayed 10 days. He was relieved of his duty by Rev. Mr. McKenzie of Log Church fame. Mr. McKenzie was school inspector as well as padre. The fourth was Andrew McKay, born on lot 14, Con. 8. The fifth was Tom Bayne, who lived where the Walkers School is situated. The sixth was Fitzgerald Sutherland, father of Dr. D. M. Sutherland. His salary was \$275.30, the clergy reserve grant being forty dollars.



Teaching in those days was used as a stepping stone to other professions. Until 1888, teacher's salaries had only reached \$350.00 and \$80.00 of this was Clergy Reserves Grant.

By 1924, the salary reached \$1,000.00. By 1966, the salary was \$3750.00. Until after the first war, the pupils used slates, and scribblers were almost a luxury.

The school was used as a community centre for different types of meetings. As early as 1894 and perhaps before, Sunday School was held under the Knox Presbyterian church, Embro. In 1900 Alex Smith was appointed Superintendent and later on the last Sunday School was under Alex Smith and John McLeod. Both made good leaders and made beautiful prayers. In the early days the people also held prayer meetings in the homes and in the school.

In the late eighties and nineties, the Patrons of Industry were very active in the vicinity holding meetings in the school. In 1892, they built the shed for their horses assisted by the section. This is still standing. This organization had political affiliations but only lasted a few years.

The Farmer's Institute was flourishing organization for a number of years. In a record by C. C. Sutherland, Strathclair, Man. the following were prominent members from 1890-95, John M. Sutherland (Eben), John McKay (Bayne), Neil Murray (Sheppard), Jim McKay (McPhaul), John McKay (Rosal), John Lindsay, Wm. Munroe (teacher) James Munroe and others. The school was used as a polling booth for many years.

Until 1894, there was no special caretaker, but the school was cleaned by some one during the holidays. The first there put on the fire and the sweeping was done by the pupils, taking turns after four and dusting in the morning. In 1894, records show Miss Bessie Ross and Mrs. Donald Ross each received \$3.00 for cleaning the school while Mary Anne Ross, Davina Munroe, Effie Cline, Bertha Munroe, Richard Langdon and Burns Campbell were paid



60 cents each for sweeping. In the years 1896-98, Willie Forbes and R. Langdon took care of fires and sweeping for \$3.90. The first regular janitor was Frank McMillan.

A well was dug but did not prove satisfactory. It was filled in, in 1888 by Jas. Munroe. A second one was dug with the same result and for a long period of time the water was carried in a pail from the nearest neighbour on the west by the pupils taking turns. A granite or tin cup hung near the pail. Each year a new cup and pail were purchased. In 1908, James Ferguson received \$10.00 for water. In 1913, the well was drilled at a cost of \$251.50.

In 1889, new land was added to the school site from Jas. G. Munroe for \$12.50. This was to the west side of the school.

#### FROM THE RECORDS

A cash book was available which showed the income and expenditures from 1879 to 1938. This book cost 85 cents and the minute book, 25 cents, and was used approximately 50 years. A good deal of lumber, shingles, plastering, drainage, painting, maps, window panes etc. were paid for.

- 1880 - writing desk, bell
- 1882 - woodshed, Jas. Crang and John Clark, \$63.45
- 1888 - new platform, \$2.25, Jas. Munroe bought 21 old desks, \$2.10
- 1892 - lumber for shed \$18.75
- 1893-4 - lamps and reflectors \$3.65
- 1895 - Globe \$3.00
- 1897 - school fence \$19.00
- 1889 - 1st blackboard brush, 10 cents
- 1900 - water tested (J. M. Cole) \$5.00
- 1906 - borrowed for first time from Col. Munroe, \$100.00
- 1912 - Section lost \$481.32 in Farmers Bank
- 1924 - organ \$35.00



1926 - school equipment \$230.00

1926 - laying floor \$24.70

1936 - wiring for hydro \$74.53, electric stove \$26.00 (community club)

1937 - R. B. Langdon, OEA expenses \$8.75

1938 - Capstic Sanitation \$295.00, Manual training \$9.65, blackboards improved at different times.

1912 - Cupboards (basement) \$6.00

#### CLIPPING FROM THE EMBRO COURIER, MAY 1927:

Two carloads of representatives of the Horticultural Society visited all the schools in the township. Party: Geo. Smith, Mrs. Gorby, Rev. A. Laing, Mrs. Hugh McDonald, Mrs. W. J. Vannatter and Mrs. A. A. McKinnon. When they arrived at Maple Grove the pupils were out for their afternoon play. Teacher, Miss Williamson, 17 pupils. This school is in good state of repair. The inside has been decorated and is very up to date in every respect, very clean and tidy. Perhaps more attention has been given to flowers at this school than any of the others, the flower beds being fenced in. At this school one of the party, Mrs. Hugh McDonald had many pleasant recollections, as many of her youthful days were spent under the roof of this school.

The next year Alma Hallock had a very excellent garden and received top prize in the township schools.

#### INSPECTORS

The first one was Rev. Mr. McKenzie (Log Church). For forty years Wm. Carlyle was inspector for Oxford and anyone who went to school during those forty years will remember him as he made his rounds twice a year, and in awe and fear the pupils would say to the nearest, "Here comes the inspector!"

The white whiskered old gentleman drove a white horse attached to an open buggy and tied this faithful beast to the school fence. Under the buggy trotted a small white dog who showed his teeth if you ventured too near.



Under the seat, was a fishing rod and when the day's work was finished he would drive to a creek to whip a speckled trout from the stream. Those nearing the full span of life remember him better for what happened inside the school. If he came in the morning the children were pleased for it meant a half holiday. He would take the teacher with him to the next school. It was hard luck if he came in the afternoon as a test of wit was sure to follow, and the inspector's biting criticism would make you quake.

"Scholars, if the hands of the clock are at twelve noon, when will they meet again? First boy, doesn't know, second boy, can't tell. Then the cat was out of the bag. "They never meet, only pass." He wanted quick action and quick thought. "Master, call the third class: First Boy, What is a Quart?" "Two pints." Second boy, "What is a pint?" "Half a quart." "Sit down. They are measures of quantity." "Master, call the fourth class." His beloved lesson was the definition of the subject and the predicate and that English grammar was a matter of common sense. He quite often used the sentence: "The stove in this room is black." and by the time he got through he would have scholars going from the blackboard to the stove and pointing to the subject. What he wanted was the words: "the stove."

Inspector Carlyle was a crank on reading. He would call a class the width of the school. "First scholar, read, next, read." And it was a steady "next" not failing to hand out criticism for the sing song variety of reading which he affectionately mimicked. The memory of this grand old man will live in the hearts and minds of the boys and girls who attended school during those years.

He Was followed by J. M. Cole, Geo. Mather, W. G. Anderson and John Crammond.



## ARBOUR DAY

Arbour Day in the early days was the first Friday in May. The pupils brought pails, cloths and rakes from home and the inside of the school was cleaned. Outside, raking took place and pupils put wood into the woodshed. They formed a line and one handed blocks to the others and finally they were placed in order in the woodshed. Sometimes as a finish to the day's work quite a number went fishing at the Mud Branch.

## LIBRARY

Over the years, a library was built up. Special grants were received from Dept. of Education for purchase of books. At first the books catered to the senior pupils but in the later years the juniors also shared.

## RED CROSS

During the two wars the pupils were interested in Red Cross Work. The women in the community working with the Braemar or Embro Institutes.

## FUEL

From the earliest days wood was the chief form of fuel. It was furnished from the farms in the section. Those selling wood in the years were James Clark Sr., B. McKay, Jas. G. Munroe, Alex Clark, Wm. Munroe, John R. McKay, Donald Clark, R. J. Sutherland, H. W. Sutherland, E. H. Legg, James E. McKay, Alex McIntosh, Burns Smith, James Smith, John G. McKay, Frank Brown, Hugh McDonald, John Hutchison, James Crawford, John Smith, Douglas Forbes (kindling). It sold from 80 cents to \$6.00 a cord in 1938. It is recorded in 1936, Mrs. McNeil received \$67.90 for coal and in 1937 she received \$73.50 and in 1938, \$66.10. Some wood was also bought.

In 1940 no tender was received for wood at the annual meeting reflecting the diminishing bush, and it was left to the trustees to secure wood. This was stated in 1941, 1942, and 1943 reports.



## SPORTS

Competed with other scholars in foot ball, base ball and Shinney (Hockey on snow), the pupils loved to go to the Mud Branch, to the hills where sleigh riding took place and on ice ponds in the fields of McIntosh's and also to the woods across the road. There was a flat board on top of the fence and pupils often, against implicit orders to stay off the fence would run on this flat board, some acquiring quite a skill. They also ran on the roof of the shed and walked the board fence from one corner of the schoolyard to the other.

## SCHOOL FAIR

It is recorded that on Oct. 1, 1914 the trustees voted five dollars to Warren Birtch as representative for School Fair work. In 1915, Frank Smith received the money as the second representative to send to the agricultural office. Under Eva Vannatter, the pupils attend d and competed at the School Fair at Embro. The grant was to cover cost of seeds and prize money. Eggs were given to pupils at 25 cents for 1 doz. and 60 cents if more were required. The seeds, grains and vegetables were usually sent directly to the pupils by mail and were planted in home gardens. They were inspected first by D. Archie McDonald and later by local teachers. The School Fair Day was a big event. There were competitions for the best schools in the parade, for stock-judging public speaking, vegetables, flowers, cooking, sewing and later the Strathcona Drill.

In 1917, a Championship School Fair was held at Woodstock and firsts and seconds from each township competed. Agriculture as a subject was taught in the school. The School Fair work was continued till 1943 when other Agricultural Activities such as 4-H work was introduced. Many teachers had to qualify to teach agriculture.

MUSIC TEACHERS: Some were Marguerite Murray, Doris Redman, Ethel McCorquodale, Marion Robertshaw, Dora Harrison.



SHOP & AGRICULTURE INSTRUCTOR - 1946 - 51, Mr. Stuart Jacques, for boys and girls TRUSTEES who held office from 1915-43, Henry Lippert, John McDonald, Donald Ross Harry Birtch, George Kempshed, R. B. Langdon, Alex McIntosh, W. G. Forbes, Jas. A. Murray, George Sterling, Earl Day, Roy Ross, George McBurney. Others we remembered earlier - John M. Sutherland, Eli Birtch, Thos. Langdon, Donald Clark, Donald McIntosh, and Alex Smith.

#### AUDITORS 1880-1939

James Munroe, Wm. Clark, J. M. Sutherland, Alex McIntosh, Sr., James E. McKay, James Crang, John Ross, John A. McDonald, Geo. McIntosh, Wm. McKay, Albert McBurney, H. W. Sutherland, Angus Forbes, R. J. Sutherland, John Hutchison.

#### FIRST AREA BOARD 1944

Trustees, Earl Day, Geo. McBurney, (replaced Earl Day who resigned upon leaving neighbourhood), R. B. Langdon, Roy Ross, Secretary-Treasurer: Roy Ross.

#### OUR HONOUR ROLL

FENIAN RAID Alex Campbell 7th line.

#### WORLD WAR 1, 1914-1918

Robert White - Killed in action

Mack White - Assistant General Manager of Hydro in Toronto

Watson Langdon - United Church minister, Lawrence Station, Thamesford and Earls court Toronto

Bert Forbes - Bank Manager at Kelowna, B. C.

Kenzie McIntosh - Manager of Bell Telephone, Stratford, North Bay, Brantford.

Bruce McIntosh - T. and N. O. Railway

Ferguson Lippert - a Dentist in Toronto

Harry Lippert - lived at Essex

Adam Munroe - St. Marys

Ross Mooney - Post Master at Embro

Lorne Campbell - Windsor

Warren Birtch - C. N. R. Simcoe



## WORLD WAR 11 1939 - 1945

Lawrence Langdon - Killed in action, John Robertshaw - Killed in action  
Alvin McDonald - later with hydro, Ross Blotchford, Ralph Webb, George Murray  
Warren Birtch, Jirair Kalaydjian, Gordon McMillan.

## SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF MAPLE GROVE

DR. ANDREW MCKAY: born, Lot 14, Con. 8, served in the Provincial Legislature and practiced medicine in Woodstock.

JOHN AND DONALD MCKAY: sons of Angus McKay, graduated for the ministry but both died just as they entered their professions.

WM. MUNROE: came to Canada from New York when 14 years old had a very distinguished family. Hugh - B. A. DD. was moderator of Presbyterian Church of Canada, William D.D. - served as minister in Montreal, Walter was a druggist in Seattle, Alexander was Professor of Surgery at University of Alberta. Garfield, practised medicine in Montreal, Fanny - a nurse was decorated for service in World War 1 and later was superintendent of nurses in Edmonton at the Royal Alexandra Hospital and superintendent at Royal Victoria, in Montreal.

JOHN SOPER MCKAY: Lawyer in Woodstock (list not complete.)

## EARLY DAYS IN COUNCIL

Alex Clark, Sr. Robert Forbes and Alex McIntosh Sr. were Deputy Reeves. Geo. McIntosh, Reeve, Wm. Forbes, Reeve and Warden. Richard Langdon, Reeve, and Chas. Langdon, Reeve of East Missouri. (list not complete)

## COMMUNITY CLUB

The community Club was organized in 1933 with Roy Ross as president, and had dances, card parties, presentations, etc. They bought the piano and electric stove together with equipment as well. The children made quilt blocks in 1936, 1938, 1939, and the mothers quilted them. They were sold for \$12.85, \$14.15, and \$22.25 respectively. Mary McKay was the last secretary.



SOME OF MY MEMORIES OF MAPLE GROVE SCHOOL 1922 - 1928

Contributed by Doris (Langdon) Edwards

The big sleigh loads of stove wood for the furnace that men from the section were paid to deliver each winter: We would hear the sleighbells jungling and see the heavy team of horses drive in past the school windows to unload at the woodshed. Sometimes we were lucky enough to get a ride part way home on the empty sleigh.

Arbour Day, which was usually the first Friday in May was our idea of a grand holiday. Instead of doing school work we came armed with rakes and worked all morning at cleaning up the school yard, while the bigger boys usually piled the wood neatly in the shed. The big treat of the day came when the teacher opened the brown paper bags that had been sitting on the "anti-room" shelf all morning and we were given an orange and sometimes peanuts in the shell or candy kisses. There was sometimes a treasure hunt and in later years even something as modern as a marshmallow roast!

During these years Mr. J. M. Cole was the inspector and as he drove into the school yard to tie his horse up the teacher would sometimes turn pale at the sight of him. We were all very strangely quiet and well behaved while he put us through the various tests and everyone relaxed a bit when his day was finally over.

Christmas concerts were an exciting event. We practised at noon hours and recess for weeks before. The day of the concert was busy with last minute preparations. Some of the men came and built the platform out wider so that the school choruses and plays could be put on to better advantage. There was always plenty of local musical talent and I think we could honestly say we played to a "packed house." The parents always came and it was always a big success.

Every pupil who ever went to Maple Grove will remember the ball diamond. The little hill up to first base, and home base was always beside the pump.



We went tearing around the bases, then home and right to the pump for a few gulps of cold water before our turn up to bat again. Those lovely maple trees were something we took for granted but so many school yards now look barren in comparison.

Then there were the 5-lb. lard pails we all had for carrying our lunch to school. They must have had good strong handles to stand so much swinging. In the early spring of the year when the water was running we took the lids off and floated them in the stream that ran down the eighth line hill and had to run along the road to catch them at the bottom before they swirled into the deep water and under the bridge. The view from the top of those hills on the eighth line was beautiful. The walk to and from school was long and must have taken its toll of shoe leather but gave us the opportunity to become well acquainted with every kind of weather as well as every apple and choke cherry tree along the way. We found where the wild strawberries grew reddest along the road and they were fresh and clean. We could get a drink of fresh spring water half way up the hill in Billy Baine's field. There was always water there when everything else had dried up, sometimes enough to sink down and get our feet wet too.

During school hours we practised writing by the hour - circles and letters over and over until they were perfectly formed. Our slates squeaked and slate pencils fell on the floor and broke. We each had a little bottle of water on our desk for washing off our slate and a cloth to rub it dry. I seem to remember holding the cuff of my sweater with my fingers while I gave my slate a final polish with my sleeve. Mothers will probably remember the results of these things.

Then there was the old brown cupboard that stood at the west end of the little platform. It was filled with such good books and it was a joy to be choosing one to read. The little yellow coloured "Golden Rule Books" were favourites but there were many others including "A Child's History of England"



with such stories as "King Arthur and His Knights of the Round Table" and "The Two Little Princes in the Tower."

No gossip or criticism of the teacher was ever allowed in our home and we grew up with the greatest respect for our teachers.

And now a final salute to Maple Grove School. What happier memories could any place provide.

#### ITEMS FROM SECTION

One picnic that went down in history was held using the school grounds and Sandy Clark's bush. A booth was set up and lemonade made from a powder was sold and a number got very sick.

In any Scotch home one would hear the story of the tug-of-war team which brought fame to the Zorras in 1893 in Chicago defeating well coached teams representing six nations of the world. Members of the team were Wm. Munroe, Robert McLeod, Alex Clark, Ira Hummason, and R. McIntosh, anchor man and E. L. Sutherland, captain. All were farmers within walking distance of each other, and weighed around 200 lbs. each. Sandy Clark was from Maple Grove section.

The winter of 1878-79 never seemed to be forgotten by the other people of the district and should not be overlooked with all the inoculations the children receive to-day to prevent disease. Eighty-eight years ago there was little to combat disease and under those conditions, a violent form of small-pox broke out on the eighth line and spread. Death came to sixteen of Zorra's sons and daughters and on the 8th line the brunt of the disease hurled its full weight. At least one death was in Maple Grove section. Some who did recover were left more or less cripples and some marked for life. It was during those dark days and nights that Dr. Adams, of Embro, the community doctor, a clever young doctor, drove into yards with his horse and cutter where death stalked at the door of homes and where other humans were afraid to enter.

He did not take the disease but carried it home and a death came in his own home. We should be very thankful for the advance in medical research. An outbreak such as that could not happen to-day.

Another social event was a big race for the vicinity held on the 8th line starting below Dan Clark's place, to the corner. There was very little in the way of ditches to bother and it included foot races as well as horse races, etc. The ward was passed from one to another and by their weekly newspaper (Embro Courier). They came for miles and had a wonderful day together.

#### CENTURY FARMS

Alex McIntosh, John McKay, 7th line, Roy Ross, Andrew Mc onald, and the Angus B. McKay farm was at the time of his death and his sister's death, Miss Margaret McKay.

#### FROM THE SECTION

<u>TEACHERS</u>	<u>NURSES</u>	<u>DOCTORS</u>
Marion Langdon	Agnes McKay	Dr. Garfield Munroe
Dr. Andrew McKay	Ella McIntosh	Dr. Alex Munroe
Mamie Clark	Nellie Birtch	Dr. Andrew McKay
Nina Crang		Dr. J. F. Lippert
Lois Ann McBurney	Fanny Munroe	<u>MINISTERS</u>
Helen Langdon	Addie Munroe	Hugh Munroe
John Robertshaw	Minnie Munroe	William Munroe
Anna McBurney	Ene White	<u>DRUGGISTS</u>
Helen Smith	Dorothy McDonald	Clark Murray
Lois Sharples	Kathleen Day	Walter Munroe



#### JOTTINGS

The Smiths: The Frank Smiths have sold the Smith Farm and retired to Embro, building themselves a new home. Frank has served in an educational capacity being appointed to the Woodstock-Suburban School Board and serving for fourteen years. The parents, Mr. and Mrs. Alex Smith farmed this land for many years. A son, James Smith married to Marion Munroe lives in Embro and a brother Gordon in Woodstock, and a sister, Helen, in Lindsay. A brother Burns, who was married to Susan Richardson, a former Maple Grove teacher, died a few years ago.

The Smith farm was originally the home of Capt. Gordon who was very prominent in the early days, being one of the sponsors of the building of the Log Church.

Gordon Smith and his wife, the former Rhoda Mae Ross farmed for many years at Innerkip. They were faithful workers in the Presbyterian Church there and since returning to Woodstock attend Knox Presbyterian Church. Gordon was a prominent Mason and in 1937 was District Deputy Grand Master, Wilson District.

Clark Murray, a druggist in Woodstock was federal Member of Parliament being elected in 1949. He is grandson of the late Mr. and Mrs. Alex Clark.

William G. Forbes was the first president of the Zorra Caledonian Society when it was reorganized in 1937.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Parker were in charge of the County Home for a number of years. Mrs. Parker is the former Annie Forbes.

Victor Ross, for a time president of Imperial Oil was a son of the first teacher, D. H. Ross. His mother was Barbara Forbes.

Wm. Girbes Sr. was County Road Superintendent for a number of years.

Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Porter of Calgary entertained Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip at their Calgary home, on the last tour of the Royal Couple. Mrs. Porter is the former Lillian Forbes.

John G. A. McKay has purchased the Foster farm which was one time owned by his grandfather, the late Hugh McKay. He and his sons now have three hundred acres and keep a herd of Holsteins, also beef cattle.

Archie Blair, who bought the Forbes farm is noted for his horses and sheep.

Around 1885 a road was built to form a short cut for the Seventh Line people to get to Embro.

It is reported that the Campbells of Maple Grove section were among the first farmers to have Holstein cattle in this area.

#### TRUSTEES

Alex McIntosh farms the land pioneered by his grandfather, the late Robert McIntosh. He has served as trustee and has been keenly interested in Community affairs. His wife was the former Alberta McKay. He and his son, Calvin, have added to the farm. ~~They are noted for their fine herd of Holsteins and are~~



exhibitors at the Royal Winter Fair and local fall fairs. Among many trophies, they have won the Canadian Holstein Breeders Award. His father, the late Donald McIntosh had fine cattle and horses and was an exhibitor of heavy horses at the fair. Alex has one daughter, Mrs. Howard Murray. A brother of Alex's, Robert died a number of years ago and another brother, John McKenzie McIntosh died recently. This brother was manager of the Bell Telephone at Brantford at the time of his death. Calvin McIntosh is married to the former Annie Prouse and they have children and live in the big house on the McIntosh farm.

The Lawrence Sutherlands who have been residents of this section for several years sold their farm and moved to Twerton.

Alster Clark and Alex Matheson have returned after visiting in Scotland. They spent some time at Dornoch and had trips through Sutherlandshire.

Within the past year the Community were shocked to learn of the death of Mrs. Robert Pelton, the former Lila Birtch. The Birtch family have been in the section since early days. A son, Theron farms a mile north of the farm of his father, the late Harry Birtch, who was a school trustee for years. Ross Birtch and family are living in Woodstock. A brother Warren Birtch lives in Simcoe.

Roy Ross, son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Donald Ross farms a farm that has been in the family one hundred and two years. After 5 successful years at the W. C. I. he took over his father's farm. He served as a trustee of Maple Grove School and also as secretary-treasurer of the school board & of Ebenezer Church. His wife, the former Cora McKay is on the staff of Victory Memorial School, Ingersoll.

George McBurney served as trustee. He is the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Albert McBurney. His wife, the former Alma Hallock, taught at Maple Grove a number of years and is presently teaching in East Zorra Schools at Hickson. When the tornado struck in 1953, the McBurney barn was destroyed and a new barn was built. Their son Alan is a graduate of Ridgton Agricultural College where another son LaVerne is in attendance. Lois Ann, won provincial honours in grade 13 and has since graduated from U. of W. Ontario.

There are no descendants of the late Mr. and Mrs. John Sutherland living in the section. Their farm is owned by Simon McDonald who has acquired several other parcels of land. His son Jim is on the farm next to his. Likewise there are no Crangs left. Alex lives in Flint and Mina, Mrs. Bill Davidson is moving to Owen Sound.

Mr. and Mrs. Earnest Lowes are about to dispose of their farm. Jean was one of the White family who were noted for their musical ability. Robert White killed in the First World War was an excellent violinist. Two brothers, Bruce and Tom have died as has Agnes, Mrs. John McDonald. A sister Ena lives in Arizona and MacDonald White now retired was a former president of Toronto Hydro.

Of the family of the late Mr. and Mrs. Wm. McDonald, only Andrew and Annie, Mrs. Jim Lovett of Clinton are living. Douglas McDonald who took over his father's farm is a grandson.

Mrs. Catherine McIntosh Howe who lives at Harrington is a sister of Alex's. She is noted for her work in church organizations and the Women's Institute and is keenly interested in the local history of the community. She has one daughter, Rosina married to Hilton Morris and a son Mac Howe who took over his father's farm.



Donald Clark St. was the first treasurer of the Zorra Caledonian Society formed in 1856. Dr. Mary Wright of London, head of the Psychology Department of Western University is a great grand daughter of his being the first woman to head a Department at Western University. His son, James, is on his father's farm on the tenth line. His daughter Mamie, retired from school-teaching, makes her home there as well. Rowena, another daughter is Mrs. Harrison Egan of Niagara Falls. A brother Alex Clark was on the famous Tug of War Team

From Eva Vannatter, June 1966:

It is just fifty years ago this month that I completed my first year of teaching, and Maple Grove was my first school. At that time, the enrollment was just 18, and one of my former teachers at Woodstock Collegiate, Mr. J. M. Cole, was the Inspector of schools.

I believe one of the highlights of the Community Life of S. S. No. 9 that year was the Glee Club which was formed. The members of it were Messrs. Burns Campbell, Angus Forbes, James E. McKay, Donald Ross, Robert J. Sutherland, and James Thomson, - all of whom have passed on. I was the accompanist, and we had many pleasant evenings when we visited various homes in the section for practise, followed by a social time afterwards.

June 30, 1966

The teacher, Mr. Peter Cuthbert, and the pupils have packed the books and the remaining supplies ready to be taken to the new area school, Highland Park. Mr. Cuthbert has been the teacher for the past 3 years and one of the highlights of his time was the excellent skating rink that the pupils helped him flood on many frosty days and evenings. At the closing of school only 3 families attending are descendants of the original families. Mary and Alex McIntosh, children of Mr. and Mrs. Calvin McIntosh, are the fourth generation of McIntosh's to attend. Steven McDonald, son of Mr. and Mrs. Douglas McDonald, is of the third generation, as is Douglas Ross, son of Mr. and Mrs. Roy M. Ross.

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To commemorate our reunion of Maple Grove School, we have attempted to publish this book. Many hours have been spent in historical research and in compiling it and much of the credit must go to two former pupils, Mrs. Cassie Howe and Miss Mamie Clark.

Several others have contributed articles and bits of information and we are very grateful to each and every one. We regret any errors or omissions; time did not permit us to do as much as we had hoped. We trust that you will enjoy reading the book and that it will bring back many pleasant reminiscences of Maple Grove School.

Reunion Committee

Historical Book

Roy M. Ross, Chairman  
Mrs. Ross Edwards, Secretary  
Mrs. Douglas McDonald, Treasurer  
Mrs. Ernest Lowes  
Gordon A. Smith  
R.B. Langdon  
Alex. Mc Intosh

Mrs. Herbert Howe  
Miss Mamie Clark  
Mrs. Roy M. Ross  
Mrs. Calvin McIntosh  
Gordon Smith



MAP OF THE MAPLE GROVE SCHOOL SECTION AS IT IS TODAY -JUNE 1966

Crang Farm-Donald Lindsay ← The Crang farm was not actually in this section but the Crang family attended this school and the various activities in the section.						
6th Line		7th Line		8th Line		9th Line
Clifford Fraser	Roy M. Ross *	James S. McDonald *	P. Minogue *	Charles Slager *	E. De Boer *	Wm. McKay
Wasyl Tryhub*						Archie Blair
	George * McBurney	Simon * McDonald	Richard * Ulch	Alex. & Calvin McIntosh	Archie * Blair	Archie Blair
Bruce * Mc Intosh	Cecil * Patience	SIDE ROAD	ROAD	school		Burns Masters
De Melo *	Tingle Sisters	John * McKay	H. * De Jonge	A. & C. McIntosh		Burns * Masters
			Alex. * Cureton	Orval * Zavitz		
H. * Zomer				A. & C. McIntosh	Spanger *	Max. MacKay
		Duncan * Crawford				
	J. * Langlois	R. Berge	A. * Neave	H. Kikkert	Wm. * Pye	Frank * Porter
					Harold * Bailey	
	Harold * Masson	Harold * Uleh		Douglas * McDonald	Wm. * Bodfish	L. * Sharples
				J.W. * McDonald		D. & L. Sharples
	A.W. * Monkel	Charles * McAlpine	McDonald	H. * Kikkert	Andrew * McDonald	Veenstra *

\* Living at present on the farm.

CORRECTION: On page 10, The names listed as trustees are those of the last school board of S.S.#9, just before the school was taken over in 1944.



## TEACHERS

1860 D. H. Ross	1915-16 Eva Vannatter
John L. Murray	1916-17 Erie Newton
John Scott	1917-18 Jean McKay
Dr. Andrew McKay	1918-19 Marion Langdon
Thomas Bayne	1919-21 S. V. Williamson
1879 Fitzgerald Sutherland	1921-24 Miss Whatmouth
1880 Agnes Walls	1924-27 Mary Finleon
1884-86 Christina McKay	1927 Miss Williamson
1886-88 Annie Geddes	1927-30 Alma Hallock
1888-94 Wm. Munroe	1930-37 Mabel Hogg
1894 W. B. Amy	1937-40 Olive Schweitzer
1895-96 John L. Murray	1940-42 Myrtle Fleming
1895 Kenneth L. McLeod	1942-44 Dorothy M. McKay
1896-98 Wm. McNeil	1944-46 Helen McLeod
1898-1901 Lena Featherstone	1946-48 Mary Muir
1902 Mary Bayne	1948-51 Anna M. McPherson
1903 Lena Reid	1951-52 Carmene Brennamon
1903-06 J. J. Ross	1952-57 Carrie McBurney
1906-09 Annie Marshall	1957-61 Daniel Lambkin
1909-11 Mayme McCaul	1961-63 Lyle Smith
1911-14 Elizabeth McCorquodale	1964-66 P. Cuthbert
1914 Susan Richardson	

The blue skies smile, and flowers bloom on,  
 And rivers still keep flowing,  
 The dear God still his rain and sun  
 On good and ill bestowing.  
 His pine trees whisper, "Trust and wait!"  
 His flowers are prophesying  
 That all we dread of change or fate  
 His love is underlying

J. G. Whittier