

Life in a One Room Schoolhouse



Moore's School
S.S. # 4

Rebecca Best
April, 1986
Grade 6
Madoc Township

Preface

Over the past few years, the students in grades 5 and 6 at Madoc Township Public School have been doing local history projects. Such assignments are designed to teach research skills as well as make students more aware of the history of their area.

These projects have ranged from family histories to the histories of some local homes and businesses. They have been submitted each year to the Hastings County Historical Society Contest. Our students have been first place winners in each contest.

As 1986 is the 25th Anniversary of Madoc Township Public School, it was logical to select the topic "History of One Room Schools in Our Area". The students worked long and hard to research facts and obtain old photos. As well as old registers, interviews played an important part in the information gathering process. An entire day was devoted to interviews with over twenty people (senior citizens, former pupils, former teachers and others) visiting the school to talk about the twenty schools that are now incorporated into the Madoc Township School Community.

We hope you enjoy this history of the one room schools and also of our consolidated school. You may find errors or omissions. Please remember that this is entirely the students' work.

May this book bring back many happy memories of your school days.

Imagine walking about three miles to school on a winter's day, finding you have to bring in an armful of wood or carry a bucket of water from the neighbouring farm and then sitting down to start your school lessons. This happened to many pupils, years ago in a one room schoolhouse called "Moore's School."

On Lot 13, concession 3, a one room schoolhouse was built in Elzevir Township called Rhode's School. It is thought that it was built in 1842. This school was built of logs and had neither privy nor playground. The land it was on was owned by Robert and Rachael Herbertson.

In 1869, Herbertsons donated the land on which to construct a frame schoolhouse. Not until 1873, was the land legally deeded to the school trustees.

John and Jenny Moore lived in the area next to the school, the corner known as Moore's Corner and the school became known as Moore's School. The frame school was used until 1901 when a brick schoolhouse was built in its place. The old frame school was used as a woodshed behind the school until 1963 when hot ashes placed on the floor caused a fire and the woodshed burned down.

In Witness Whereof the said parties to these presents have hereunto set their hands and Seals

*Signed, sealed and delivered
in the presence of*

Robert Wells

Robert Herbertson

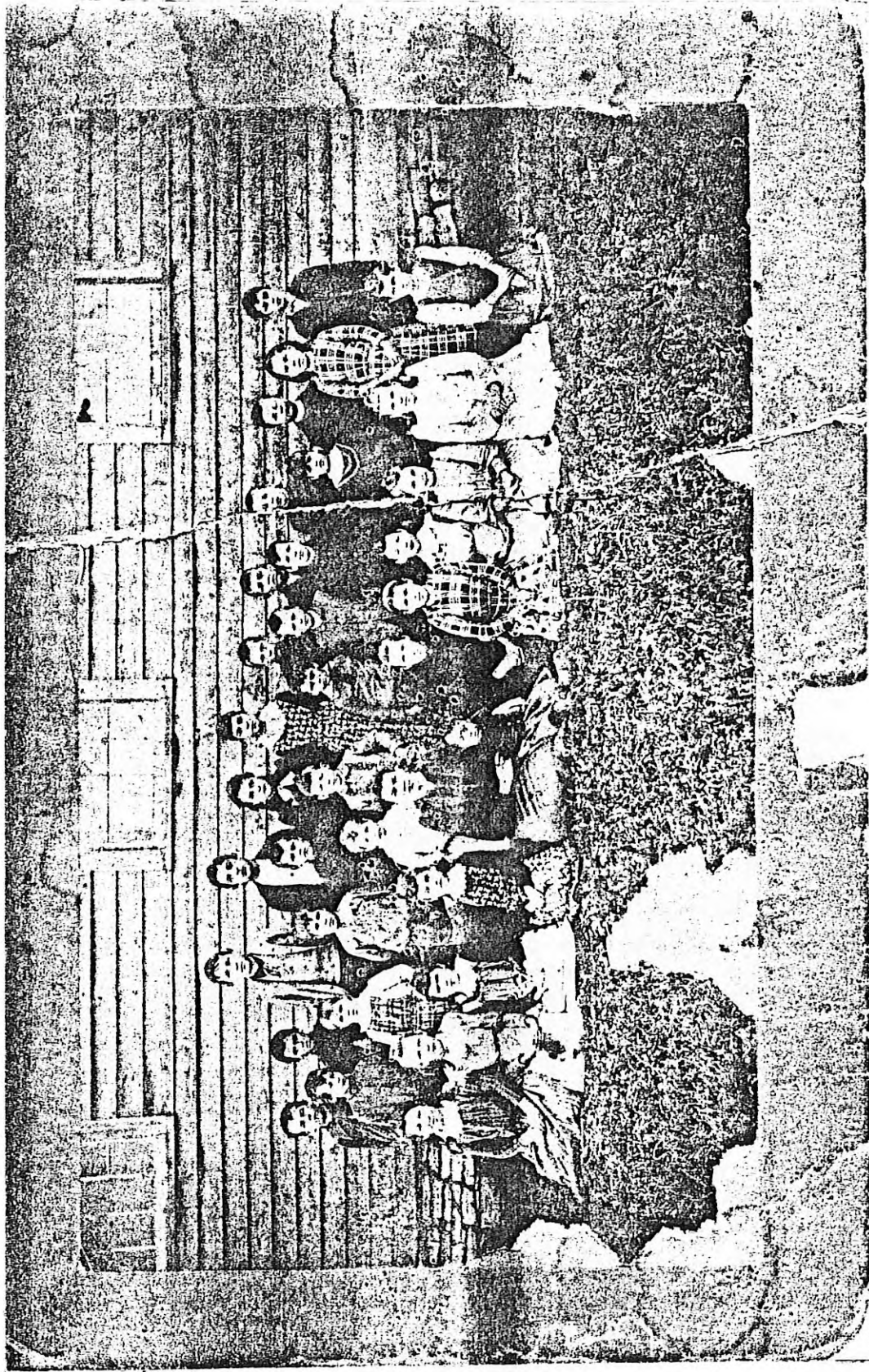
Rachael X Herbertson
mark

Thomas Hailstone

D. McHugh

Simon Higgins

Copy of the original
deed of the land.
1873.



Side of the frame
schoolhouse.
Children unknown,
Taken in 1892.

Good friends at recess.



Children came to Mooré's from all around- some travelling from just north of Hwy. 7. You can be sure those children would have to leave home early so they could be to school for 9 o'clock. Many children could come to school only while they could walk in their bare feet and so in the winter they would stay home and help their parents. Other children living closer went daily unless there was a holiday but holidays were very few.

We don't have truant officers today, but in those days, any student absence for any length of time other than for illness was investigated for truancy. You can imagine those children often getting involved in catching minnows or stopping to play while on their way to school and then forgetting to go to school. It was in 1950, that a station wagon was used to gather the children who lived at a distance.

When the school was first built, and for a number of years after, the older boys of the class would light the fire in the morning. Later the school trustees suggested that a trustee should light the fire. Also, in the early days, the school did not have a janitor as we do now. Teacher and students were responsible for keeping the school and yard clean and tidy.

For recess, when the weather was nice, the children would play ball, tag, topsy-turvy, ring-around-the-rosey and other group games. On rainy days, recess was indoors and the children played Bingo, or had contest games like spelling bees.

Lunches, carried in small tin pails were eaten out of doors in good weather. In the cold winter months, the teacher often cooked a pot of soup on the box-stove for all the children.



Sleigh riding across
the road.

In the cold winter months, the children would come to school in laced up rubber boots, only to find the ink in the inkwells frozen. They often went sledding on the hill across the road and then come into school and hang their mitts on a metal rod that encircled the stove. The rod was meant to keep children from falling against or bumping into the hot stove. It was ideal for hanging up the wet woollen mitts.

Subjects taught then were similar to those taught now. Books were not plentiful and many lessons would have to be memorized. Art was mostly drawing and painting. There was not a gym but there was a large out door play yard with two swings. There was a library consisting of a closet and about 300 books. Many students read all the books by the time they had completed their eight grades. Sometimes, some students would stay on and take grade 9 or 10 at the school as well if they had no place to board in Madoc, you understand, there was not any school bus for transportation into Madoc. As well, in order to go onto highschool, a student would have to pass an Entrance Exam.

If an older child had been good and had all his school work done, he would be asked to help the younger children with their school work. As mentioned, there were eight grades, usually four students per grade, but the school had been known to once have had 60 students- having to sit 2-3 per desk- can you wonder how much school work got done. And the teachers- getting such poor wages, often did not stay longer than a year at a time.

School Report
of
S. S. No. 4
Cheney
Sheila Clarke
Pupil
SEPT. 194*7* to JUNE 194*50*
Grade 8
Grade
Margaret Rollins
Teacher

Example of a school report card.

S.S. # 4, Moore's School

1852-1858	Nancy Cooper
1859-1860	Nacey A. Davis
1861	J.M. Buchan
1862	Kitty Huffman
1863	Kannah Eagleson
1864	Mercia A. Vancleek
1865	Robert Wiggins
1866-1867	Orlean Hart
1868	Kannah Eagleson
1869	Eliza Wiggins
1870	Alice Barker
1873	Bob Wiggins
1875	Sarah Carleton
1877	John Ballard
1901	Lucy McCaw
1903	A.H. Stirk
1904	L.S. Sarles
1905	A.W. Moore
1906	B.F. Menzies
	B. Nichols
1907	D.M. Rollins
1908	N. Nichols
1909	E.M. Munroe
1910	P. Holmes
	E. Ballard
1911	A.J. Moore
	Susie Cameron
1912	Lillian Garbutt
1913	Matilda White
1914	Carrie Sheridan
1915	F. Nichol
1916	L. Empey
1917	E. McMechen
1918-1919	A. Thompson
1920	Alice Bateman
1921	S. Moore
1922	F. Stewart
1923	G. Hally
1924	Alice Howe
1925	W. Ferguson
	Gladys May
1926	Cora Graham
1927	Miss Hyke
	Mildred Gawley
1930	Peryl York
1931	Alice Delyez
1932	Jessie Robinson
1933	Alice Hale
1934-1936	Mildred Gawley
1937	Jean Hart
1938	Melville Loucks
1939	Effie Machester
	Margaret Cummings
	Mr. Klassan
1940-1942	Margaret Leslie
1943	May Wilson
1944-1951	Margaret Rollins
1952-1954	Doris Dunham
1954-1962	Leila Holmes
1962-1966	Monica Tobin

List of teachers who taught at Moore's.

During the school times of the 1800's and into the early 1900's, slates and scapstone pencils were used. Later paper workbooks, pencils, straight pens and ink were used, however all school supplies had to purchased by the students. Some costs were- workbooks 2-5¢; pencils 2-4¢ and slates 5-7¢.

SCHOLARSHIP REPORT				
	1	2	3	4
SOCIAL STUDIES				
ENGLISH: Reading	50	85	89	86
Spelling		41	38	39
Writing	50	70	90	84
Literature		46	43	40
Composition & Grammar		80	76	83
HEALTH		88	83	85
MATHEMATICS		82	91	82
ART		84	84	85
MUSIC		B	B	B
NATURAL SCIENCE		89	86	B
AGRICULTURE		82		
HOME ECONOMICS				
CRAFTS or MANUAL TRAINING				
TOTAL		812	816	816
Percentage		84	84	83
Days Absent		5	10	
Times Late				
A—Very Good (75% or over) I—Good (65% to 74%) C—Average (50% to 64%) D—Poor (below 50%)				

CITIZENSHIP REPORT				
HEALTH Posture				
Personal Cleanliness				
Safety Rules Obeyed				
NEATNESS and CARE of Appearance				
of Books				
of School Property				
ATTITUDES Co-operation				
Courtesy				
Use of Time				
Interest in Work				
Supplementary Reading				
Conduct				
A—Very Good B—Good C—Fair D—Not Satisfactory				
SIGNATURE OF PARENT				
1. _____ 2. Mrs. J. Clark 3. Mrs. J. Clark 4. _____				

TEACHER'S REMARKS	
1. Report:—	
2. Report:—	
3. Report:—	
4. Report:—	Good.

"Through the valley flows a noisy stream", was a sentence repeated over and over for many years by one school inspector- Mr. McGuire. The sentence had to be divided into subject and predicate. All the children including the teacher were terrified of the inspector. He would arrive at the school unannounced, knock loudly on the door, march to the front of the room and start calling up the grades one by one to ask them questions. If a child did not know the answer to the question, the inspector blamed the teacher for not teaching the child properly.

As mentioned earlier, holidays were few. One of the most popular of the holidays was known as Arbour Day, held on the first Friday of May weather permitting, and held the next Friday if raining. Arbour, meaning tree, was the main reason for the day, as the children would plant trees. As well, the school and yard would be cleaned up. Boys would rake the yard and clean the woodshed while the girls washed windows, swept and washed floors and washed the desks, woodwork and blackboards. After all the work was done, the children would walk down to Queensboro, 3 miles away for a game of baseball.

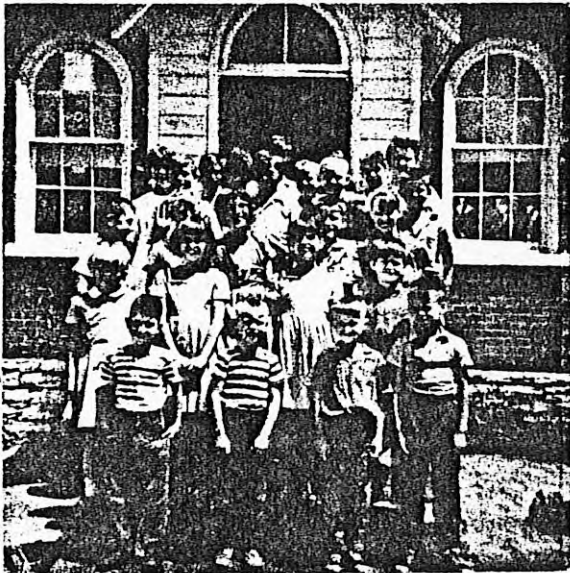
The Christmas Concert was the biggest event of the year. The teacher would organize poems for the younger children to recite and plays and/or songs for the older students. Imagine the event! Excited children eager to perform for the classroom filled with parents and relatives- many having walked or travelled by horse and buggy to watch the performance.

Other than the summer recess, the other holidays were at Easter time and a day off for the Madoc Fair. Sometimes, if the children had been good, a day off was given to attend the Tweed Fair.

Pranks were common place just as now. Sometimes, the boys upset the outside toilets, or teased the girls by pulling their hair. And then ink flinging was done; a straight pen was dipped into the ink well and the flick of the pen splattered ink leaving spots on the paper as well as on the girls' dresses. The ink marks often would not come out. One story I heard was about Margaret Rollins. She was the teacher and engaged to Roy at the time when Bill Roushorn wrote with a crayon 'Margaret Leslie and Roy Rollins', onto the stove pipe. Apparently, Margaret was angry. All the pupils knew who had done it and when Margaret asked the class, NO ONE answered! And since no one confessed, the entire class was punished by staying in after school until 5 p.m.

Moore's School did not have any indoor toilet facilities. For this reason, plus the fact that the Board of Education in Ontario was encouraging 'centralization' of all the small schools scattered about Ontario, Moore's School closed its doors on June 29, 1966.

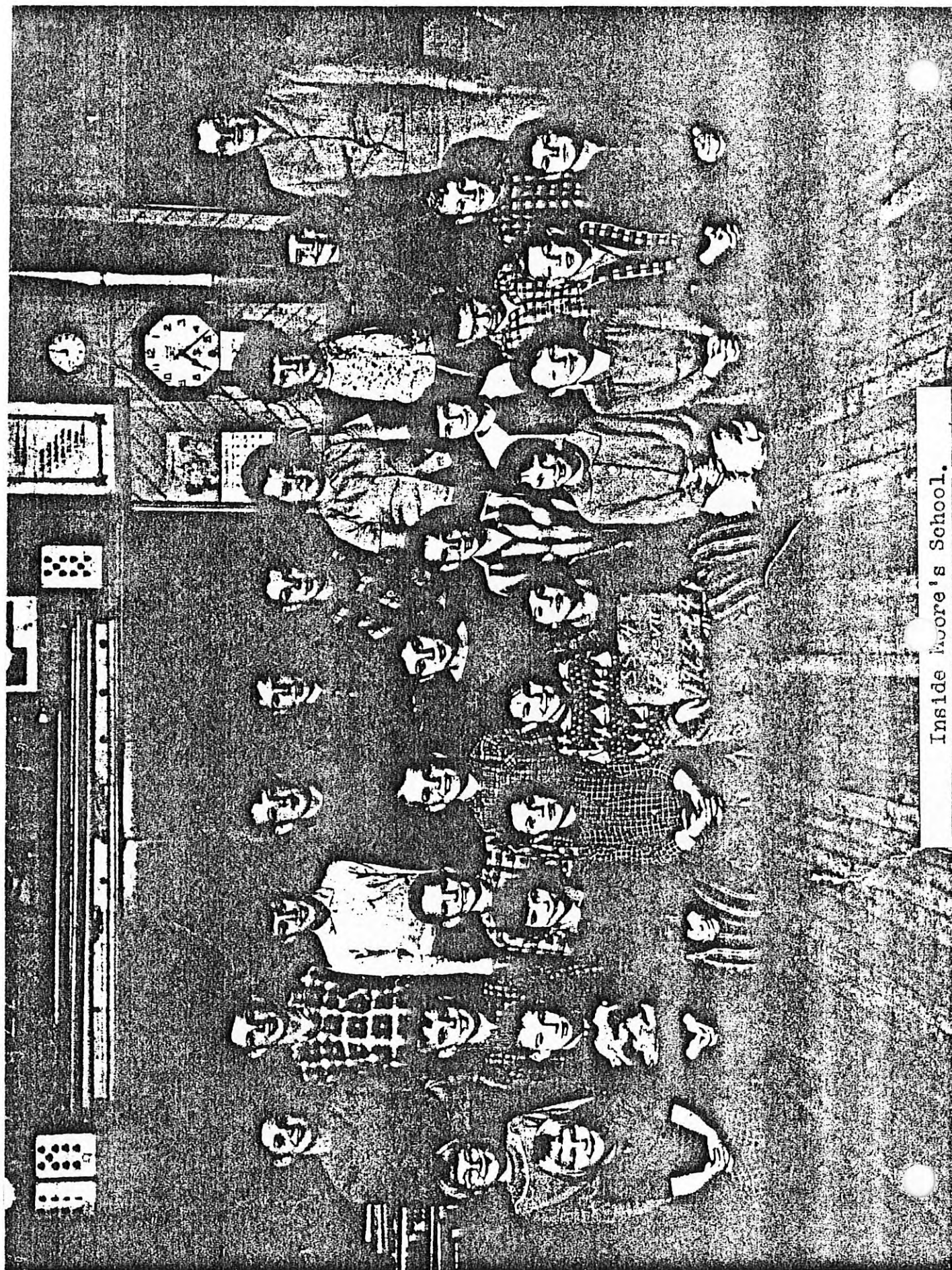
It was purchased first by Jack Robinson from the school board. It changed hands several times and is now owned by Karen and Richard Bernhardt. The school has been renovated into a comfortable home with indoor facilities. Little has been done to alter the outside appearance. The original bell tower and bell are still in place as are the two swings. The building and grounds are well maintained.



Class on the last day
of school, June 29th.,
1966.

Monica Tobin and
Peter Devolin, last
day of Moore's
school, June 29th.
1966.





Inside Moore's School.

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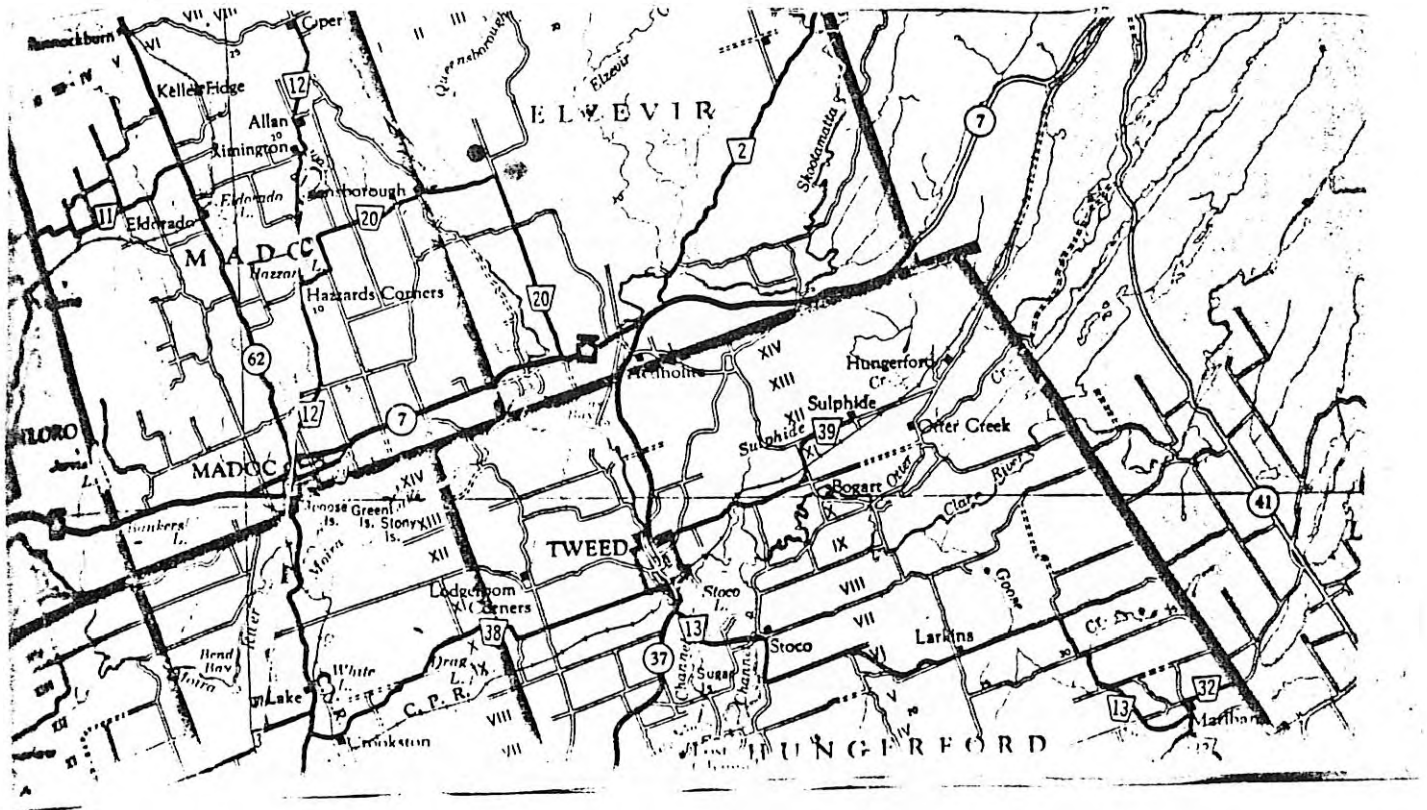
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Tokley, Harold, Personal Interview Of Moore's School,
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LOCATION



This dot is where Moore's School is.

This dot is where I live.

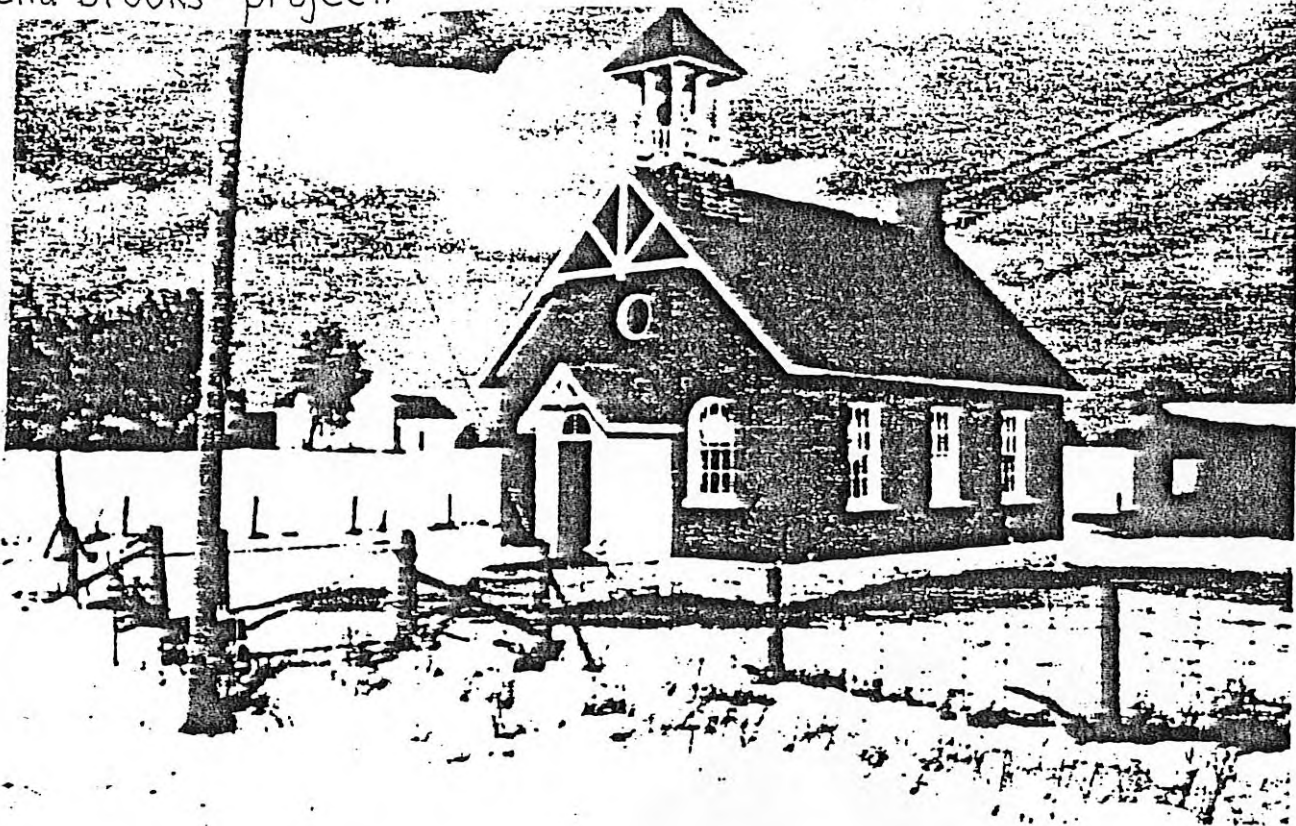
This map was taken from Renae McGowan's project.

SS NO. 4

Wooler's

SCHOOL

The following pages are from
Sheila Brooks' project.



22

LOG BOOK

1938. The School.

The original frame school is now used as a woodshed. The present brick school was erected in the Fall of 1901. The first teacher in the new school was Miss L. R. McCaw 1901-1902. Other teachers in order (as best the list could be obtained) are A. W. Stark 1903, L. S. Barlow 1904-5, A. W. Moore 1905, B. F. Menzies 1906, N. H. Nichols 1906, D. M. Rollins 1907, N. H. Nichols 1908, E. M. Munroe 1909, P. Holmes 1910, E. Ballard 1910, A. J. Moore 1911, S. Cameron 1911, L. Garbutt 1911-1913, Y. White 1913-1914, C. Sheridan 1915, F. Nichol 1916, L. Empey 1916, E. M. Mechan 1917, A. Thompson 1918-1919, A. Bateman 1920, S. Moore 1921, T. Stewart 1922, G. Hally 1923, J. Howe 1924, W. Ferguson 1925, Gladys May 1925, Cora Graham 1926, Mildred Gawley 1927, Alice Kelyea 1931, Jessie Robinson 1931, Alice Hale 1933, Mildred Gawley 1934, J. Hart 1937. Before 1908 Mr. John Johnstone was Inspector. Mr. Wm. Mackintosh succeeded him, then Mrs. J. E. Minna B.A. in 1915. Mr. A. W. McQuire B.A. of Tur was appointed Inspector in 1924. After Miss Hart left Mr. Loucks came in ^{Sept} 1938. ^{or 1939} In 1940 Mr. Classen came and M. Leslie 1941.

The grade 8 pupils helped other children with spelling dictation. If the children were on their best behaviour they would go to ring the bell.

On one occasion the teacher, Margaret Leslie, made the children stay until 5:00 o'clock because Bill Roushorn used a waxed crayon and wrote on the stove pipe,

M L
Loves
R R

Margaret Leslie
Loves
Roy Rollins

Mrs. Jean Holmes told me when I interviewed her that, when the inspector came to visit the school, he would use his famous sentence everytime he came to examine the children. The children had to split the sentence into "Subject and Predicate"
"Through the valley flows a noisy stream"

Moore's School closed its doors for the last time as a school house, June 29, 1960. It is now a pleasant summer home, owned by Morley and Margaret Carter, Lakefield.

S.S. No. 4, Elzevir, Moore's School, 1936

Back Row - Ken Cassidy, Irene Wilson, Jean Cassidy)

Tokley

Next Row - Bessie Roushorne) Summow, Eileen Genereaux,
Jackie Genereaux (killed in war) Vincent Genereaux,
Theresa (Genereaux) Carswell, Kathleen (De Clair) Kerr,
Rose Baker

Next Row Down - Alice (Wilson) Canniff, Joyce Spencer,
Kathleen (De Clair) Kerr, Bill Roushorne.

2nd Row from front - Raymond Langerin, Bonnie Genereaux,
Greta Spencer, Jean (Roushorne) Holmes, Allan Collins,

Front Row Teddy Genereaux, Betty Genereaux (twins),
Rita Genereaux, Theresa Baker, Geraldine (De Clair)
Devolin, Raymond De Clair.

Taken in
school yard
on north side,
shows Leslie
Herbertson's barn
and house in
background.



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1	Arithmetic Manual	1	50
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Feeding Sklks	85	170
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7	Cape Verde Is.	69	4	83
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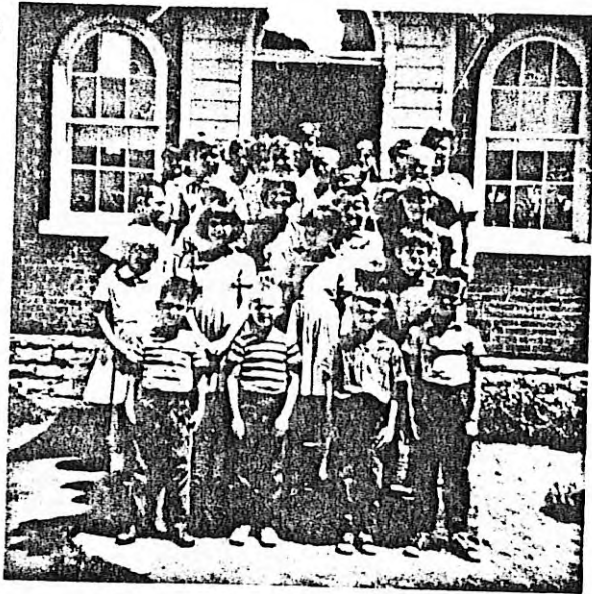
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One of many expenses
Moore's School paid.

The day the Moor's School closed
 S.D. No. 4, Elzvir, June, 1966.



Back Row: Dwayne Seussmith, J.B. Laton, Annette
 Devolin, Wayne Summers, Albert Summers, Dennis Summers,
 Mike Devolin, Patsy Lalonde, Larry Lalonde,
 Ivan Summers, Janice Rollins

Middle - Billy Holmes, ^{Paul Rollins} Kathy Devolin, Sandra Holgate,
^{Larry Holgate} Elaine Tolley, David Devolin, Julie Hiscock,
 Allan Lalonde

Front - Ronnie Holmes, Peter Devolin, Johnnie
 Hiscock, Terry ~~Seussmith~~ Seussmith.

