

CONVERSATIONS

TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH
MR. FORD HAIG

AUGUST 25, 1993.
R.R. # 2
Gananoque, Ontario
K7G 2V4
382-2497

At present Mr. Haig is 92 years old.

He attended school in the fall of 1906 and was finished in the year 1915. He attended school until the eighth grade and then went to work on the family farm.

In the 1940's, Mr. Haig and Mr. Campbell Clendenning, while on the school board, did some research regarding the school. They were searching for the date that it was built and the builder of the school. Unfortunately, neither of those questions could be answered. Mr. Haig knows for sure that the school was there in 1872 because his grandfather was killed by a saw at the corner. The children were in school that day and witnessed the tragedy.

Mr. Haig believes that the school was built in the 1850's and yet other residents have suspected that it was present many years prior to that.

At one time there was a log school directly across the road from where the stone school stands today. The date and builder of that school is also unknown.

CONVERSATIONS

TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH

MRS. MARY GRIFFIN

R.R.# 2
GANANOQUE, ONTARIO
K7G 2V4
382-2876

AUGUST 24, 1993

Mrs. Mary (Carpenter) Griffin attended Emery School.

Mrs. Griffin was born in 1928 and began school at the age of five. Her first teacher was Miss Ella Nuttall (who later married a Jackson), followed by Leita Barrett, Saddle Allen, Helen Wright (who later married an Atkinson), and her last teacher was Doreen McNeily (who later married William DeWolfe). Miss McNeily was Mrs. Griffin's grade 8 teacher. (1940)

Mrs. Griffin's mother, Gertrude Aiken, came from Millbrook in 1913 to teach at Emery School. She boarded with Lorenzo and Elizabeth Carpenter who lived right beside the school. Miss Aiken earned approximately \$300.00 a year, and paid approximately \$3.00 per week to the Carpenters for room and board. In 1914, Miss Aiken stopped teaching because she married Firman Carpenter (Lorenzo and Elizabeth's son). Mrs. Griffin stated that, "It was not proper for a married woman to teach school."

Firman Carpenter owned 100 acres of land on lot 20 Concession 3 of Leeds Township. He sold some of the land to the school so that a larger playground and a ball diamond could be built for the children.

Mrs. Griffin's older sisters Irene Kirkby and Grace Ralph (both are presently living in Gananoque) also attended the school. When Mrs. Griffin was too young to be in school, her older sisters would often come and get her at lunch time so that she could play in the school yard with all the other children.

Mrs. Griffin has the original deeds to the land; they were given to her by her mother. Today, Mrs. Griffin lives on the property where her great grandparents once lived.

CONVERSATIONS

TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH
MR. PERCY BOVEY

AUGUST 27, 1993
91 North Street
Gananoque, Ontario
382-3500

Mr. Bovey was born in 1915.

He attended Emery School from 1922-1930.

His family lived just west of the bridge on Marble Rock road.

When Percy Bovey was a young boy, his father, Harry Bovey, looked after the dam and was caretaker of the school. Percy's father, since he worked at the school, had to attend the school board meetings. Often Percy would go with him. Many of the trustees could not write, and those who could would write illegibly; therefore, Percy was often called upon to take the Minutes. Mr. Bovey has no idea where those minutes would be today or who would have them.

Mr. Bovey's first teacher was Josephine Davison. It is believed that she was from Perth. Other teachers were: Miss. Swirtzfiger, Miss. Darling, and Miss. Nuttall.

Mr. Bovey believes that the school may have been built around 1835. He also believes that the Coleman's who were responsible for building the original dam, may have also built the school. (The present day bridge was built in 1923)

CONVERSATIONS

TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH
MR. RUSSELL CARPENTER

AUGUST 27, 1993
276 Sydenham St,
Gananoque, Ontario
382-4413

Mr. Carpenter was born in 1915. He attended Emery School from 1920 -1928. He then went on to Gananoque High School.

Mr. Carpenter used to live on Haig road; 1.5 miles away from Emery School.

Unfortunately, Mr. Carpenter does not know the origins of the school.

INTERVIEWS

INTERVIEW WITH
MRS. VIOLA GRIFFIN

AUGUST 23, 1993
11:00 a.m.
AT MRS. GRIFFIN'S HOME
R.R.#2 Gananoque, Ontario
K7G 2V4
382-2887

Interview conducted by Lisa Thompson

Mrs. Griffin was born in 1918. She started at the Emery School either in 1924 or 1925 (at the age of 6 or 7). She went to grade eight (1933) but did not write her entrance exam to go on to high school.

Mrs. Griffin has two class photographs dated 1930 and 1931. Many of the people identified in the photos are deceased, but there are a few who still live in the area. Some of Mrs. Griffin's classmates were: Percy Bovey - he lives in Gananoque today
- his father "tended" to the school

Marion Miller - lives in Gananoque

Russell Carpenter - lives in Gananoque

At the time of the photographs, there were approximately 10 - 12 students attending the school. Ella Nuttall (from South Lake) was the teacher at that time.

The school consisted of a porch, the stone building, and a wood shed.

The school doctor was Dr. Charles Bird from Gananoque (he had an office on Pine Street). His son Dr. Godfrey Bird took over the practice.