

---

**S. S. No. 8, East Nissouri**

**ADAMS SCHOOL**



---

**1865**



**1965**

---



## HISTORY OF S. S. NO. 8 EAST MISSOURI

### ADAMS SCHOOL

The first schooling the children in the neighborhood received was taught at one of the private homes around the year 1830 as school houses or meeting places were unknown.

Reverend Thomas Brown in his autobiography writes "The first school that I know of in East Missouri was taught by a superannuated Presbyterian Minister in the Cameron neighborhood (lot 3 and 4, concession 13) at a private house where a few young people received their education."

The first school house was built in 1835 of logs a few rods east of the eleventh line bridge on the north-west corner of lot 5 on William McNeese's property.

Later another log school was built on the same lot only on the north-east corner before 1840 to which later was added a frame building. These two buildings were later moved to the south-west corner of lot 6, concession 12, across the road from the present school, to become the home of the Ross family.

In 1862 John Adams agitated to have a new school built in the centre of the section. At a meeting of the ratepayers, they decided to build a brick school on land (an acre) donated by Mr. Adams as long as it was used for school purposes, to revert to the farm when the school was closed. Mr. Adams took the contract to build the school of the best of materials for \$900.00.

The attendance varied over the years from a high of ninety to a low of six in the thirties, so that pupils had to be "borrowed" from neighboring sections in order to keep the school open.

Adams school remained under the care of three local residents (called trustees) who took great pride in the pursuance of their duties. Trustees were elected at an annual meeting held at 10:00 A.M. the last Monday of each year.

In 1945 with a great deal of hesitation, the section was voted into the Area but not being satisfied, withdrew in 1962. However in 1964, the little red school house that had fought so bravely to survive had to give way to so-called progress and closed its doors. The children are now being taken by bus to consolidated schools.

We would be remiss in our history of Adams School without a reference to the man whose name it bears.

John Adams, Sr., purchased 400 acres, lot 6, and lot 7, concession 13, in 1832. His son, John Adams, was a farmer who believed in doing things in a big way (even for this day) 100 acres of potatoes, 100 acres of corn, 80 - 100 dairy cows, his own meat processing plant, cheese factory, first grain binder, etc.

Many of his enterprises were failures with the exception of the cheese factory which continued to operate on the same site until 1938.

Early historians say he made the first cheese in Oxford County, however, this recognition went to Harvey Farrington, Norwich.

He built a large house, locally called the "Castle" Masonry walls two feet thick, 16 rooms with 14 fireplaces, landscaped grounds with trees imported from Britain. He moved to Toronto about the year 1883 where he and his sons operated a Dairy, etc., it being said he was the first man to sell milk in quart bottles.



### SINGING SCHOOL

Singing School was held in Adams School before the turn of the century with over sixty attending. The course was held in the winter and each paid fifty cents. Mr. Abernethy was one of the teachers.





### SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School was held in Adams School at various times under the leadership of local people. Some of these were John Patterson, James Hossack and John G. Mackay.

Miss Grace Patterson, a graduate of Adams School was one of the Sunday School teachers from 1909-1916. Next year she attended Deaconess Training School to become a Missionary Teacher from 1917 to 1954 in India.

While there she received the King George VI Coronation Medal for her work in Agriculture and the Kaiser - i - Hind Medal for public service.



Students from Adams School have gone on to many professions, and taken a little bit of this Oxford County cross-roads to many different countries - India, Africa, Australia, Europe and all parts of United States and Canada. Some stayed and became farmers to help keep Oxford one of the outstanding counties of the province. Many of these served on school boards, milk boards, Township and County Councils.



While Miss Grace Patterson was in India, a Girls' Club was formed known as the "Grace Country Club". These girls sent money and clothes to help children in her school in India. From this group the Grace Patterson Women's Institute was formed and among other projects still support a child in India.





To plough and work garden, \$1.00. This was a common item in the school records. A school garden was a must around the 1920's. Each child was given a small space in this ploughed and worked plot in which to plant and care for his special seeds, handed out by the Government. This garden produce was later to be shown at the school fair held in the fall at Kintore. Around the 1930's, these school gardens were discontinued and the seeds were given to the children to be sown and cared for at home.

The school fair was one of the highlights of the school year with the children taking part in parades. They displayed their writing, art and other subjects in competition with other schools of the Township.

Each year the boys had something to make, maybe a milk stool or a miniature gate. The girls would have sewing or cooking projects - make a button-hole or ½ dozen tea biscuits. All these things would be judged and my how proud the red ribbon winners were!

Around 1940 the school was painted and so became the little red school house.

In recent years improvements have been added. Inside washrooms, water on tap, a stoker was added to the furnace, new Teacher's desk, new desks for the pupils, a piano, aluminium storms and screens.







## THINKING BACK

Mrs. Leonard remembers the day the older pupils put the teacher Mr. C. Hardy in the wood box.

Do you remember that Mrs. Hull, long since retired from teaching, came to the school the day the Inspector was there and sat on the platform to the embarrassment of the teacher, inspector and pupils.

When I get up to say a piece,  
My heart goes pit a pat  
And all the people in the seats  
Say "Whose kid is that?"

No more spitting on your slate and using  
your sleeve to clean it off.

Did you drink out of the tin cup bought in  
1887 for .10¢, or the granite cup? Or maybe the pail  
and dipper 1884 - .25¢?

Were you on the bus trip when Martin Hossack  
fell in the fish pond at the fish hatchery?

Were you ever caught taking grapes from Ross'  
verandah, across the corner?

Were you one who was chosen to make a speech  
at Dicksons and Kintore?

Maybe you learnt to knit at school - boys too  
of course, during the war.

Remember the first school bus that brought the  
children from the burnt-out school at Lakeside?

1881 - 1887  
Doris Longfield

1887 - 1893  
Hugh Jeffery

1893 - 1899  
Mrs. E. May Mitchell

1899 - 1901  
Joseph Andrews

1901 - 1904  
Mrs. Myrtle Shaddock

1904 - 1910

1910 - 1913

1913 - 1919

1919 - 1921

1921 - 1924



Did you come to the school concert that night  
of the bad storm, maybe by team and sleigh?

Arbor Day - the first Friday of May. Clean up  
and then a picnic, a trip to the woods, or maybe go fishing.

Were you one who helped pump the well dry,  
to make a skating rink?

Were you in school when the floor under the  
furnace caught fire?

Did you ever sit on a tack or were you the  
one who put it there?

Were you the boy who made the hole in the desk  
with his knife?

#### MUSIC TEACHERS

Mr. Abernathy	1878
Mrs. Florence McCorquodale	1936 - 1938
Mrs. Harold Jackson	1938 - 1940
Clarence Oerton	1939 - 1941 - 1946
Carl Wittig	1941
Miss Jean McCaul	1943 - 1947
Stanley J. Smith	1962
John Inch	1962 - 1964

#### SCHOOL TEACHERS

George A. Munro	1865 - 1868
Angus Monroe	
Mrs. Margaret Hull	1874
Millard J. Cody	1879 - 1882
Marion McKay	1883 - 1884
Charles Hardy	1885 - 1887
Byron Snell	1888 - 1889
Jessie McWilliams	1890 - 1891
Maggie McKay	1892 - 1894
Mr. V. Munroe	1894 - 1896
Miss Vining	1896 - 1898
Miss B. M. Ross	1898 - 1899
Aggie Cook	1900 - 1902
Annie McKay	1903 - 1904
Lucy Towle	1905 - 1906
Clara Beatty	1907
Jennie Jenkins	1908
Helen Thornton	1909
Lucy Towle	1910
Edith Underhill	1910 - 1912
Jessie Muterer	1913 - 1914
Catherine Crosbie	1915
Myrta Taylor	1916
Margaret Beattie	1917
Harriet Vining	1918 - 1919
Helen MacKay	1919 - 1920
Harold Wannacot	1920 - 1922
Florence Taylor	1922 - 1923
Hugh Murray	1923 - 1927
Robert McLeod	1927 - 1929
Violet Holden	1930 - 1931
Dorothy Lackey	1932 - 1933
Jean Hossack	1934 - 1942
Myrtle Flemming	1942 - 1943
Dorothy Douglas	1943 - 1944
Connie Bearss	1944 - 1947
Mrs. Thelma Henderson	1947 - 1949
Ruth Munro	1949 - 1951
Doris Longfield	1952 - 1953
Hugh Jeffery	1953 - 1955
Mrs. E. May Mitchell	1955 - 1959
Joseph Andrews	1959 - 1961
Mrs. Myrtle Shaddock	1961 - 1964