

S. S. # 19 BROWN''S 1936

Kenneth Hough and
Mary Swan, at Brown's
Photo- Isobel Lewis

Brown's School - S.S.19 & Township of Augusta

It was my first school and I taught there My Recoblections; for two years, from Sept. 1935 to June 1937. The school was a neat white frame building, rather picturesquein its setting by a country roadside surrounded by woods. One could study so much of nature in its own habitat- birds, animals, trees, insects, and flowers. It was about four miles easterly from North Augusta on a road that had little traffic and became impassable for cars in winter snow and springtime mud. A trek of 21 miles through the bush brought one to South Branch and the more built-up rural area. My pupils had long walks to reach the school and the enrolment was small - it varied from seven to eleven boys and girls, often just one in the grade. I stayed at the nearest farm house with Mr. and Mrs. Fred Perrin. The children had rugged trips in winter and sometimes only two or three would wade the snowy trail in bad weather. I don't think I was off sick a single day in those two years.

The trustees at that time were Gordon Hough, William Pickens, and Fred Perrin with Walter Alberry as Sec. Treas. The Inspector was Gordon Young. My salary was \$500.00 the first year and \$600.00 the second with \$25.00 for teaching Agriculture and for serving a hot dish at noon in winter. Annie Gilmour from Pleasant Valley succeeded me. The enrolment remained low and soon the school was closed. (I am not sure of the year) The building was sold and converted into a house, and the area around is now part of Limerick Forest. II enjoyed the experience of teaching there although I wished for more pupils. Those whom I taught the ere were very "special" to me.

As a point of interest my relatives in North Augusts thought I should have taught at South Branch School after Brown's as my mother, Florence Patton, my grandmother, Gertrude Ackland, my great -grandmother Laura Dudley, and my great-great grandmother Minerva Wright UEL all taught ther e. However I returned to tech in Dundas county.

Isobel Kinnedy Lewis May 15, 1988. SOMETHING OF THE HISTORY OF BROWN'S SCHOOL # 19 Augusta Township

- from Isobel Kennedy Lewis, May 15, 1988.

(Much of this information was given me by the KERWIN family whose farm was located about one-half mile east of Brown's. ARTHUR KERWIN in his late eighties stilp has a remarkable memory, and has been living in Spencerville while his sister, Dorothy Martin, lives in Ottawa and is a friend of mine.)

Brown"s School was originally a long building, built by early settlers over 100 quars ago. At one time the pupils numbered as many as sixty. There were large families at that time, and a larger school section. Later, a Separate School opened at Throoptown on the next road.

The Kerwin parents both attended Brown's in early times. Mrs. Kerwin (Nee Bridget Burns) and her brothers and sisters, including ANNIE BURNS and GOERGE BURNS were educated there. You can see that many early settlers here were from Ireland.

The name Brown's came from BILL BROWN who owned the land around the school. In the early 1900's, hie niece, ANNIE PICKENS, taught there for several years, and was well- respected.

GORDON McMULLEN of Prescott is her son. Other teachers through the years include CLAUDE FERGUSON, MARY KFYES, VERA ARMSTRONG, BERTHA McMAHON, EVALENE THOMPSON, GERTRUDE LANE, SADIE LEE, VERA STEPHENS and JENNIE BRUCE.

Bay 542. Winchester Unt. May 19, 1988 Dear Goldie I have been slow getting this information off to you - but I didn't forget. It's heen quite busy and I don't accomplish all I would like to do. My friend Dorothy martin in Otlawa found out something of the history from arthur Kerwin - her brother. He "is very deaf but also had a great deal of knowledge - Kight now he is in hospital at Temptville. I hape this is some help and that I shall manage a viset to your museum this year. Dincerely, Asahil Lewis