

1955

General Construction: One story brick building with frame entrance porch, both with wood shingle roof. Brick chimney forms part of building wall, not rodded. There is a small frame bell tower.  
Interior: One blackboard. Frame wainscoting and wood lath and plaster walls. Ceiling wood lath and plaster.  
Separate frame wood shed set on concrete foundation has a metal clad roof. This shed is used for storage.

McKINLEY'S

One wood burning stove, set on metal base, exposed to classroom.

LOT 37 - CONCESSION 5

Water is obtained for fire protection from a lake house 400 feet away.

TOWNSHIP OF AUGUSTA

Hydro with power cable.

At present time, 19 children.

Recommendations: Plaster has come away from the ceiling exposing the wood lath. It is recommended that this be repaired, thus stopping fire travel to the roof space.

Valuation

School

\$10,200  
\$ 7,912

Replacement Cost New  
Actual Cash Value

Inspected: September 29, 1955.

By: M. Weeks & G. Dowker.

\$ 200  
\$ 162

Replacement Cost New  
Actual Cash Value



Built  
1877.

General Construction

Exterior: One storey brick building with frame entrance porch, both with wood shingle roof. Brick chimney forms part of building wall, not rodded. There is a small frame bell tower.

Interior: One blackboard. Frame wainscoating and wood lath and plaster walls. Ceiling wood lath and plaster.

Separate frame wood shed set on concrete foundations has a metal clad roof. This shed is used for wood and general storage.

Heating

One wood burning stove, set on metal base, exposed to classroom.

Water Supply

Water is obtained for fire protection from a farm house 400 feet away.

Exposures

None.

Lighting

Hydro with lomex cable.

Attendance

At present time, 19 children.

Recommendations

Plaster has come away from the ceiling exposing the wood lath. It is recommended that this be repaired, thus stopping fire travel to the roof space.

Valuation

School

Replacement Cost New	\$10,280
Actual Cash Value	\$ 7,915

Outhouse

Replacement Cost New	\$ 206
Actual Cash Value	\$ 165



McKINLEY'S SCHOOL

This brick schoolhouse was erected 1877 on land formerly owned by John McKinley, Lot 37, Concession 5, Augusta Township. The contractor was James Walker. The approximate size 24' x 32', with small frame entrance porch and bell tower. There was a separate frame woodshed, used also for general purpose storage. No well in the schoolyard, water was carried by the pupils from the adjoining farm.

The earlier building, a log structure, was in the northeast corner of Lot 37, next to Lot 36, on the property of John McKinley, also. Nothing is recorded as to the size of this building, or the date of its erection.

TRUSTEES included: Edward Bradford, Joseph Young, Thompson Greer, Charles Brown,  
Fred Spicer, Clifford Morey, Kenneth McKinley, Reid Carpenter,  
and Ernest Carpenter.

TEACHERS: Miss Louks, Mr. Fraser, Miss Willoughby, Miss McLean, Wes. Jackson,  
Miss A. Franham, Miss Hawkins (about 1885, she became the mother of Mrs.  
Fred Reynolds, Brockville) Mrs. Walter Mellafont, who taught in the old log  
school, perhaps late 1860's, (Mrs. Blake Edwards' mother), Miss Heffernan,  
Miss Fair, Miss Faux, Mrs. Edgar McLean, Bill Todd, Miss Gwen Dawson,  
Howard Mills, Miss Flood, Miss Stewart, Miss Geraldine Orr (Mrs. Howard  
Seeley), Mrs. Kenneth McKinley, Miss Warren.

NOTE: Seldom was the teacher known by her given names, even by parents. Thus all the  
'Miss'. Then, too, a young teacher did not remain long in any one situation,  
always looking to better herself, at times by marrying into the community.

Previous to Miss Willoughby's coming, the salary was \$250 per year. It was then  
raised to \$300, which caused quite a stir among the ratepayers who thought this an  
outrageously high salary for any young girl! The children had good times, sleighriding  
on the McKinley hill in front of the school, and skating on a pond in the pasture  
back of there.

The school was closed, and pupils bussed to the new school at Algonquin, 1962.  
Mrs. Mary McKinley, teacher at the time, went along to join the staff there.

The building was used as a residence by the Cassibo family, then it burned.  
The date stone was brought to Maynard Public School, and lodged with the Grenville  
County Historical Socieity Archives at Homewood, at the request of teacher Mrs. Goldie  
Connell, 1978.

GLEANED FROM OLD REGISTERS,

1911 - January - Miss King  
1912 - January - M. A. Graham  
1914 - January - L. D. Robinson  
May - Bertha L. Cooper from Prescott  
September - M. Mallen  
1916 - March - no teacher  
- April - J. M. Coulthart  
- Nov. - Helen Conley  
1917 - January - Christie Stuart  
1919 - January - Christie Stuart  
Sept. - Lillian Hough from Fairfield  
1920 - January - Lillian Hough  
September- Mary Bennett  
April - Eulalie Flood





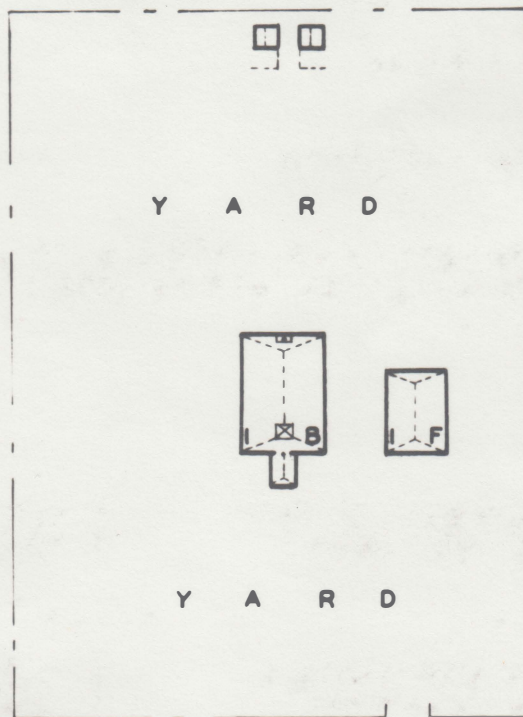
3+31 1877  
McKinley's



The honor roll of school sections 3 and 31, Augusta and Elizabethtown, contained the names of the following pupils: Bertha Shafer, Maud Morey, Archie Morey, Nellie Whelan, Grace Morey, Clayton Stewart, Edith Spicer, Kenneth McKinley, Willie Tanney, Robbie Tanney, Walter Mott, Florence Mott and Freddie Spicer. Nov. 1896







SCHOOL SECTION No 3-31

LOT 37 CONCESSION 5



Later towers were metal, when rechecking of records was done. Many were the curious visitors. One local acrobat, Henry Beaman, stood on his head on the 90" platform of the first structure. Scientific equipment in the 1920's was used at night, a very strong telescope charted the identified stars in conjunction with the required data. This was done from the ground. The last tower was erected in 1939. Today only a scar remains on the concealed landscape to mark the former location of the vault.

*-Mrs. McKinley taught many years  
in McKinley School, then in  
Algonquin Public School.*



## HISTORY IN AUGUSTA BICENTENNIAL EDITION, 1954

- compiled by Mrs. Mary McKinley,  
Algonquin, teacher.

It is well known that early education in the township rested in the hands of the family. No schoolhouses available. Fortunate, indeed, were the children if mother or father, grandmother or grandfather could read or write. Books were at a premium; plain paper, pencils and ink had to give way to slates. One book in evidence in most families was the cumbersome, well-thumbed Family Bible. This interest centred there led thousands of youngsters to a knowledge of the basics of education. Crown grants of land meted out to induce settlers to locate here brought many retired army officers who had been educated in European countries. Their knowledge and expertise infused their teaching atmosphere as they frequently opened their homes in lieu of school buildings. Curiosity was whetted to the extent of erecting school houses, some of stone, others of huge logs. To learn of supplies and equipment in one Ontario township, is to be aware of the interior of every other rural school. The great lack in our history is to be unaware of the location of hundreds of original school buildings. THAT I shall endeavour to correct in a small way.

With ALGONQUIN as a focal point, let us reach about two miles east to a lot very close to the township garage, and just over the fence from the once fine stone home of the Bishop family. Known as the Bishop School, a building of field stone stood there, a porch on one side, from the mid-eighteen hundreds. Through the years, children came from those families were educated there; Bishop, Matthie, Barton, Irvine, Woods, Throop, Milks, Coville, Tanney, Dustin, Joynnt. Hornibrooke, and many others. From that school came skilled artisans, farmers, and several practising physicians. No sign of the buildign exists today. An outstanding teacher there was Miss Lena Beale from Brockville, who excelled in music and Old Testament Bible. Mrs. May Carson (nee May Bishop) of Prescott, was the last teacher at the closing in 1912. She has kindly taken the time to reminisce about the past.

A rising youthful population in Union Grove, who had attended the Bishop School spurred interest in having a school there. Feelings ran high, but in 1913 a fine brick building was opened. Our list of 25 teachers reaches to 1961, when yet another closure occurred in favour of consolidation. Fortunately, this school became a residence for Mr. and Mrs. John Coville, who are still there.

Travelling north on County Road #15, at Con. Road 7, (Dixon Rd.) on the northeast corner, thre stood a red brick school with woodshed at the back, and porch at the front; named HERRON'S, after a nearby family. Built in 1877, the first teacher was Miss Matilda Pyke. Deprived during much of its lifetime of a well, one pailful of water susteained daily necessities most of the time. It was closed about 1946, became a residence briefly, and was finally destroyed by fire. The lot was purchased for a private home, and is still used as such.



Since we are discussing schools with no visible history, we must go west of the village about 2 miles on the 5th concession Road. In the mid-eighteen hundreds, a log building was erected on the south side of the road, across from the John McKinley farm home, in one of his fields. Enrolment was high, even in the 50's. Insuffieient seating, many of the bigger boys had to use the deep windows created by the massive logs in lieu of benches. Amongst this sea of boisterous youth, was a diminutive teacher, Miss Maria MacDonald, who held sway like the stalwart that she was. She later became Mrs. Walter Mellefont, mother of Mrs. Blake Edwards of Algonquin.

In 1877 a new building of red brick replaced the first school, and slightly to the west, following the wellworn blueprint of a wooden porch at the front. Miss Blakely taught there at \$200 per annum (entry Jan. 3, 1886). Mostly salaries were paid 3 times a year. Operating expenses were covered by funds from a Municipal grant from the township, a government grant through the township, Clergy Reserve Fund, municipal loan fund. School Section tax and failing the receipt of these grants on time, money was borrowed from one of the ratepayers, and referred to in the treasurer's record as "hired money". Those were the days when the treasurer paid 5¢ for a tin drinking cup, 25¢ for a broom, \$2 for 5 Geography Readers. Prior to 1920, the local residents held Sunday School classes there for a few years. The money remaining in the treasury at its dissolution was used to purchase a bell for the belfry. This school continued serving the community as Augusta No. 3 & 31 until 1958 when it was closed dur to dwindling child population. For a few years it became residential, was destroyed by fire, the lot was purchased in order to hold a modern house which is still there. Still standing beside this dwelling, as a part of history, is a beautiful oak tree which flourishes each year. It came from the Royal Forest in England, from King George VI and Queen Elizabeth in 1937. An impressive ceremong accompanied its planting by the pupils with Rev. Mr. Hall of Maitland.

Calesthenics was not stressed in those days. It came naturally. Unheard of by most of this generation was the skipjack. Requisites: 1 barrel stave, 1 5" block of wood (1 ft. long), 1 piece of board 12" or 14" by 5" wide, 1 snow-covered, long steep hill. To manufacture the tool; Nail the block on the stave, a little past the middle (the longer part becomes the front); place the board at right angles to the stave and on top of the block and nail securely. Start at the very peak of the hill, sit on the board, always feet up. Away you go! Under the right conditions, at express speed. Fences were opened to allow clear passage. Then the long climb back.

The McKinley hill across from the school has provided a diversity of interests. Today, they are part of the Balck ridge Ski Trails, operated by a great-great grandson of the aforememtioned John McKinley.

Just over the line fence, on the greatest height of land, is spot moxtly unknown. In 1916, a tower of sturdy planks, 90" high, was erected bearing a wooden platform 6" square. Above that was another, one foot square. This larger one to stand on, the smaller one to hold instruments. The towner was under the supervision of the National Survey Dept. Because WWI was in progress, many were the surmises that were rampant. And, flashing lights from its top, only heightened rumours. Records were kept by the scientists and buried in a small concrete vault, covered by a metal plate, securely fastened down.