

## SS No. 2

### Hartleib's School

Lot 11, Concession 2, South Easthope Township  
Corner of Perth East Road 104 and Line 33



### Memories

*I remember walking to school in bare feet, Grade 7 & 8 boys getting time out of class to pile the winter's wood in the basement and speaking German when not in class.*

*Carl Sippel - student in the 1940s*

*I remember going to my first Christmas concert. Ooh! What excitement. We went in a sleigh. A whole load of people and when we got to the school, more people. Wall to wall people. Everybody was there and the costumes and the recitations and the singing and Santa Claus. In later years they dressed up one of the Trustees with white whiskers and a red suit but that night I was sure there really was a Santa Claus. Who else would have a present for each child if it was only a brand new pencil or a comb and a Christmas package with an orange and candy and nuts.*

*Carl Niebergall*

*I recall many happy occasions when I would be invited to go home with the children for supper. The children would show me their pets and various things in which they were interested and I would get to know their parents better. What kind mothers and fathers they were.*

*Margaret McGillawee - teacher*

*I remember the old woodstove and also recall when the basement was raised and the new wood furnace was installed. Loved standing on the floor register and watching the heat flutter our skirts. It was so warm and cozy.*

*Marie Niebergall*

*I was 12 years old when I quit school. That was when my youngest sister, Merva, was born. I had to stay home and help work. I was in Jr. IV. My father and I had to go to Shakespeare to Bob Carl, the Truant Officer, and get a permit for 6 weeks and then I was 13.*

*Wilmer Baechler*

*I remember walking home from school and Ezra Schlegel would dip his lunch pail in the creek and catch little minnows. He'd open his mouth and swallow them whole - alive.*

*Erna Ankenman (Niebergall)*

*I remember one cold stormy morning when not many pupils were at school. My father came over to see if the Sidall children were there. The mother had telephoned as she was afraid they might get lost or freeze. The children hadn't arrived and the teacher was frantic. Some of the bigger boys and my father went to search for them with shovels as the snow was so deep. They found them half a mile from school, cold and exhausted. They carried them back to school and thawed them out on the furnace register. That was a happy ending to what could have been a tragedy.*

*Alice Doherty (Hartleib)*

S.S. No. 2 South Easthope was first known as S.S. No. 1 and is believed to have been the very first school in Perth County. It was a Union School serving both South Easthope and North Easthope Townships. The log building was located on the south side of the Huron Road (now Hwy 7&8) about a mile east of Fryfogel Inn. All that remains of S.S. No. 1 is a reference in an old record book.

The second schoolhouse of S.S. No. 1 was a frame building on what is now Lingelbach Church Cemetery on the corner of Hwy 7&8 and Perth East Road 104. It, too, lives on only in the record books.

In 1858 the school section split and "Union" was dropped from the name. The school changed to S.S. No. 2 South Easthope. An interesting segment in "Country Roads - The History of South Easthope Township" tells us that "at first some of the ratepayers thought the trustees could finance the school by requiring the parents of the pupils to pay tuition so that only those able to pay attended school. However, at the annual ratepayers meeting in January 1859 it was voted that school expenses be met by levying tax rates on all property in the school section. As such every child would have the same opportunity for an education regardless of the parents' financial circumstances."

The third and final site for S.S. No. 2 was Lot 11, Concession 2 on what is now the corner of Perth East Road 104 and Line 33. The school became familiarly known as Hartleib's School when John Hartleib settled across the road. The Hartleib family served as caretakers and boarded the teachers.

In 1869 a new frame school was erected. One of the early reports mentioned that attendance was low at 20 pupils but noted that the children were participating in "potato picking" and "cidering" and that attendance would rise once these tasks were done.

In the early days teachers changed about every two or three years though some stayed longer. The schoolhouse remained the same with its large wood stove in the middle of the room, the water pump outside and the outdoor toilets.

"Country Roads" relates an interesting story that is unique to this school. "In the corner of Hartleib's schoolyard several tombstones were fenced off from the rest of the playground. This cemetery was forbidden territory to the pupils. On occasion an errant baseball strayed inside the fence. For a pupil to retrieve the ball meant getting the strap. One day, when the ball had rolled beyond arm's reach from the outside, the boys called a huddle to decide who would get the strap. It was quickly decided they would all go through the fence and pick up the ball. Of course, someone tattled to the teacher and after recess was over the teacher asked who went into the cemetery. All the boys raised their hands. Not believing them, the teacher again asked with the same result. No strappings were administered as the teacher was left astounded at the wisdom of 12-year-olds."

In 1920 a basement under the school was dug out and cemented and the exterior of the building was covered with clapboard. A new wood furnace was installed about this time.

By 1964 Hartleib's School was becoming seriously overcrowded. To add to the problem, only three pupils in Grades 7 and 8 would be moving on in the next two years. Meanwhile, there were 15 children ready to start school. Similar overcrowding was happening at other school in the area. A decision was made to form a five-member school board and build a new central school in Shakespeare.

S.S. No. 2, Hartleib's School, closed in June 1964. The building and property was sold by auction in October of 1964. The winning bid was \$1,425. As of this writing it is a private home.

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*The Tavistock & District Historical Society has a collection of material from all the schools in the area.*

*Specific to S.S. No. 2, Hartleib's School, we have articles, stories and photos as detailed in the list following. Some of the material was prepared by our Historical Society and some was donated by former students. We've included a few photos here. If you would like to see any or all of the material please call one of the telephone numbers in Contacts in this website. The Historical Society would be very appreciative of any material you may wish to donate related to our local schools and any information you can offer to help date or name records that are incomplete..*

- 1) general history of the school
- 2) Teachers at SS. No. 2
- 3) listing of pupils 1900 - 1964 with detailed listing 1930 - 1936
- 4) Minutes of Annual Meeting of SS No. 2 - 1933
- 5) report card from 1942
- 6) reunion - 1962 newspaper clipping
- 7) reunion - 1984 memories of Hartleib School written by many former students  
brochure, poster, foreword written by Clayton Reibling  
(Chairman), acknowledgement listing people who helped with the  
reunion

- 8) poem "Down At Hartleib's School" written by Earl. R. Ankenmann
- 9) story "In Praise of The One-Room School" by Lorraine Roth
- 10) story "The School is Burning!" by Lorraine Roth ... circa 1941-2
- 11) story "Hartleib School" written by Carl Niebergall
- 12) bio and story by Clayton E. Reibling
- 13) excerpt from "Country Roads - The Story of South Easthope Township 1827 - 2000"
- 14) photos:
  - school exterior ... also a drawing
  - 1914 school photo (interior) ... names
  - 1914 school photo (exterior) ... names
  - 1911 (about) school photo ... names
  - 1924 school photo ... names
  - 1931 school photo ... names
  - 1932 school photos ... names
  - 1938 school photo ... names
  - 1941 school photo ... names
  - 1961 school photo ... names
  - school photos (6) ... names, no dates
  - school photo (1 ) ... no names, no dates
  - photos with some students ... names, no dates
  - individual student photos ... names, no dates
  - school fair circa 1949
  - Glen Sippel
  - Miss Kennedy (teacher)
  - Shirley Hitzeroth and fellow students
  - Gordon Sinclair
  - 1967 quilt - Mrs. Alvin Ankemann plus one lady not named
  - 1962 reunion pictures

\*\*\* scroll down for 4 pages of photos \*\*\*



**Hartleib's School, S.S. No. 2, South Easthope, 1914**

left to right, kneeling: Harold Hartleib, Homer Zehr, Clarence Leis, Ezra Schlegel, Omer Schlegel, Alvin Brenneman, Wilfred Vogt and Omer Baechler

standing: Mabel Weicker, Marie Niebergall, Alice Baechler, Verna Bundscho, Selena Yantzi, Selma Yantzi, Saloma Brenneman, Edna Baechler, Daniel Wilker, Milton Bundscho, Eli Zehr, Emerson Baechler, Robert Butterworth, Ervin Zehr, Walter Kennel, Willie Baechler and Floyd Hesse

second row, standing: Zipporah Niebergall, Lizzie Wagler, Martha Vogt, Edna Schlegel, Violet Brenneman, Talma Baechler, Lavina Wagler, Walter Vogt, Edgar Bundscho, John Roth, Amos Brenneman, Elmer Baechler, Robert Roth, Ezra Zehr and Alvin Ankenmann

back row: teacher - Miss Margaret Murray, Susan Baechler, Doris Butterworth, Sarah Iutzi, Vera Ankenmann, Emma Iutzi, Selma Iutzi, Loretta Hesse and Barbara Schlegel

photo courtesy of the Lemp Studio Collection  
names and photo published in "Crossroads In Time"



**The Girls Take On The Boys In Tug of War**  
date not known

left to right: Wilma Herold, Aleda Leis, Nellie Horst and Martha Roth pull against Reuben Baechler, David Lichti, Francis Hartleib, Joseph Bender and Oscar Brenneman. The boys lying on the ground are Alvin Brenneman and Jim Hamilton.



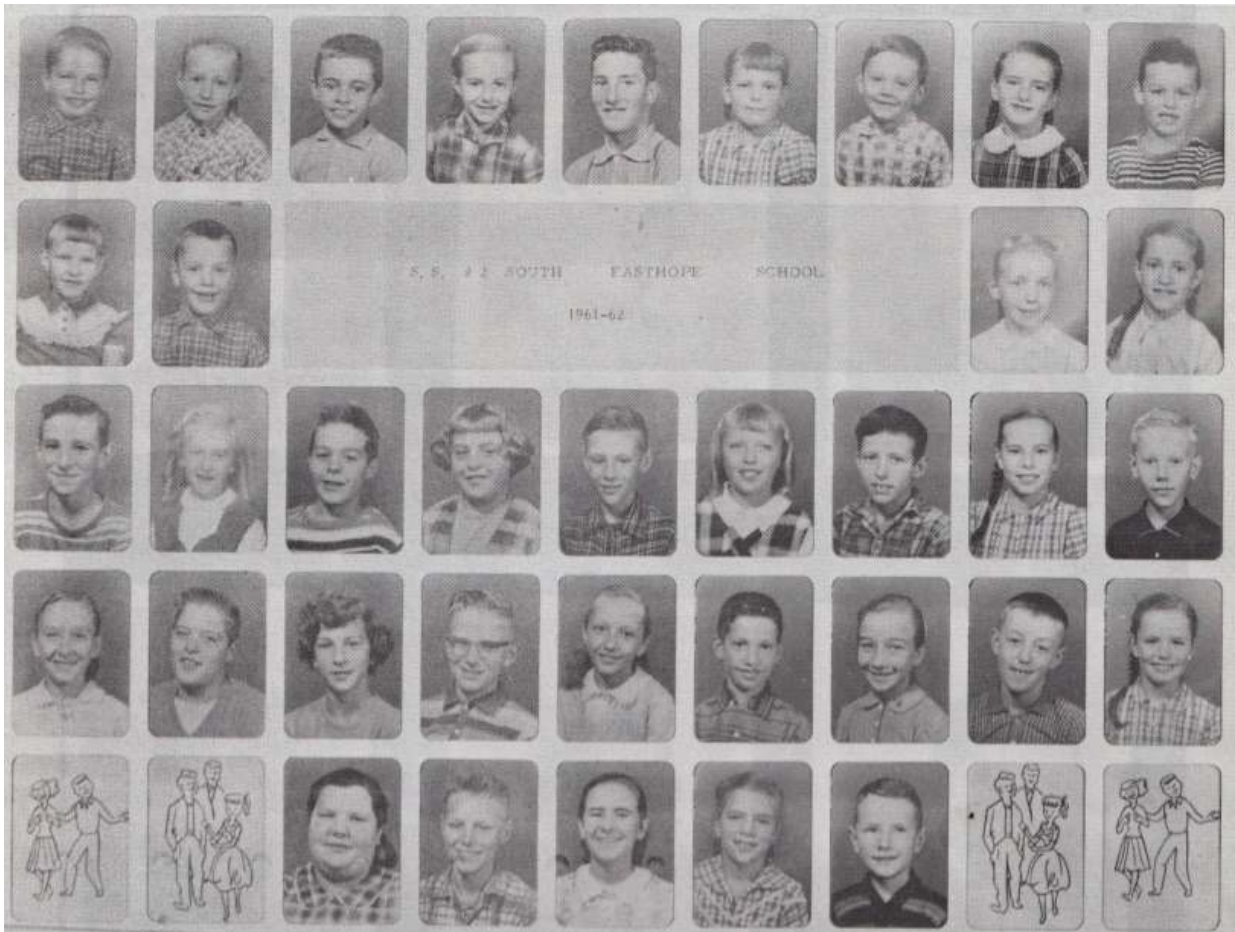
### **Hartleib's School - 1940**

Front Row - left to right: Edward Zehr, Elwood Yantzi, Melvin Zehr, Carl Sippel, Leonard Martz, Daniel Zehr, Delford Kropf, Harold Zehr, Howard Roth, Ronald Zehr, Laurene Yantzi, Dorothy Yantzi, Erma Wagler, Reta Zehr.

Middle Row - left to right: Ruth Schlegel, Laurene Sippel, Bernice Kropf, Lorraine Roth, Beatrice Zehr, Merva Baechler, Marie Ruby, Sylvester Yantzi, Henry Poetker, Jacob Poetker, Norma Bender, Dorothy Reibling, Mary Zehr, Margaret Ankenmann

Back Row -left to right: Helen Rudy (Teacher), Lena Poetker, Shirley Zehr, Laretta Wagler, Catherine Lichti, Sabina Yantzi, Laverne Reibling, Roy Breneman, Peter Poetker, Ernie Zehr, Samuel Ankemann, Ray Reibling, Robert Sippel, Bruce Ankenmann.

S.S. No. 2 .... 1961-1962



Top Row: Brian Roth, Rosanne Lichti, Dale Kropf, Elaine Baechler, Carl Ruby, Darlene Roth, Larry Gerber, Tory Anne Bender, Ray Zehr

2nd Row: Linda Lichti, Donald Fierling, Joyce Wagler, Gloria Kropf

3rd Row: Peter Schlegel, Sheila Leis, Ron Zehr, Diane Herold, Don Lichti, Shirley Herold, Robert Lichti, Cheryl Roth, Peter Wagler

4th Row: Darlene Leis, Charles Herold, Miriam Ankenmann, Gerald Lichti, Gwen Leis, Bruce Baechler, Kathryn Glab, Gary Fierling, Linda Roth

5th Row: Karen Baechler, Keith Lichti, Pauline Schlegel, Brenda Schlegel, Larry Martz