

S.S. No. 8

Goring's School

corner of the 11th Line and the Maplewood Sideroad



second school - circa 1895



third school - present day 2020

Picture this. It's 1855 and you are a student at the brand new schoolhouse on the southeast corner of Lot 34, Concession 10 in East Zorra Township. As you enter the log building the first sight is the big box stove sitting solidly in the center of the room. The desks are all bolted to the walls on the two sides of the building. You take your place on a moveable bench facing the wall. Miss Teeple, the teacher, calls the pupils in all 8 grades to order and the school day begins. It's important that you listen and learn. Your parents are paying 2 shillings 3 pence per month for you to attend. In today's money that would be the equivalent of \$15 a month ... a small pittance now but a huge outlay for yesterday's pioneer families.

In 1862 the rules changed. Monthly fees were discontinued and other means were found to pay for the teacher's salary and building upkeep and all the many expenses that go into running a school.

The local population grew and in 1866 a new white brick schoolhouse with double desks was built on the southeast corner of Lot 32, Concession 10. The construction cost was \$650, an excellent investment as the school was used for 48 years.

In 1914 the school bell rang at yet a different location. One acre of land had been purchased from Aaron Brenneman for \$140 and Jacob Seltzer from Tavistock was given a contract to build a new modern school. The red brick school boasted a basement, indoor privies (toilets), cloakrooms, a library and a teacher's room. There were new single desks, maps and all sorts of other amenities. Hydro was installed in 1937. Cupboards and a stove were added in 1949 to assist with the hot lunch program. Flush toilets came in 1950.

Over time the school became known more familiarly as Goring's School. The Goring family were prominent and active in the community. For many years the teachers at S.S. No. 8 boarded at their home.

The 100th anniversary of S.S. No. 8 was celebrated in 1955 and what a celebration it was. Three days long and held on the school grounds, there were open air dances, a basket lunch, an official brochure, sports events, a concert, an open air church service and lots and lots of laughter and reminiscing. Everyone agreed that the committee did an excellent job. The

committee comprised George H. Wilker as Honorary Chairman, Sydney Goring as Chairman, Harvey Schultz, Elton Wilker, Clifford Winhold, George Wilhelm, Conrad Wittig Jr. and Kathleen Wittig (now Bickle) as Secretary.

This school, like so many other one-room schools, was so much more than just a place of learning. The school building was the hub of the community, used to celebrate newlyweds, honour retiring ratepayers, hold meetings of Junior Farmers and Women's Institute and many more local groupings. There were many friendly and some very competitive euchre parties. The annual Christmas concert, where Santa always paid a visit, was the highlight of each year.

The last homecoming was held in November of 1965 and it was bittersweet. In January of that year School Section No. 8 was dissolved. Ratepayers north of the Maplewood Sideroad became part of the enlarged Tavistock School Area while those south became part of the Hickson School Area.

In 1965 the school and the acre of land on which it sat was sold by auction. The new owner was Robert Wettlaufer. Bob and his wife Arlene (Wilhelm) had both been students at S.S. No 8. Bob converted the building into apartments. The red brick building is now 100 + years old and is still a commanding presence on the corner lot.

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

Specific to S.S. No. 8, Gorings School, we have articles, stories and photos as detailed in the list following. Some of this material was prepared by our Historical Society and some donated by former students and teachers. 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 on this website to make an appointment to visit the museum / archives. The Historical Society would be very appreciative of any material you may wish to donate related to our local schools.

Photos

circa 1881 school photo, no names - Clarence Edwards, teacher
no date school photo, no names - teacher not known
circa 1895 school photo, no names - Henry Mansz, teacher
1889 school photo, no names - Harvey Johnson, teacher
circa 1890s school photo, no names - C.B. Edwards, teacher
1899 school photo with names - Harvey Johnson, teacher
circa 1906 school photo with names - Marion Ross, teacher
1911 school photo with names - Carrie Ross, teacher
1913 school photo with names - Annie Murray, teacher
1914 school photo (interior) with names - Annie Murray, teacher
1929 school photo with names - Werner Stein, teacher
1936 school photo with names - Werner Stein, teacher
1938 school photo with names - Steven Knight, teacher
no date school photo with names - Norma (Smith) Loveys, teacher
no date school photo with names - Ruth Kinzie (Mrs. Wilfred Rosenberg), teacher
no date school photo with names - Ruth Kinzie (Mrs. Wilfred Rosenberg), teacher
1945 school photo with names - Ruth Kinzie (Mrs. Wilfred Rosenberg), teacher
1950 school photo with names - Ruth Kinzie (Mrs. Wilfred Rosenberg), teacher
no date school photo with names - Kaye Wittig (Mrs. Frank Bickle), teacher

1958 school photo with names - Kaye Wittig (Mrs. Frank Bickle), teacher

Print Material

History of S.S. No. 8

Listing of Teachers and Inspectors

Excerpts from the Tavistock Gazette - various years .. e.g. Christmas concerts, school reports

Memories of Werner Stein - a teacher at S.S. No. 8 - by Joyce Stein and Kathryn Hansuld Lamb and article "Mr. Werner Stein, Who Had Taught Section's Children For Fourteen Years, Presented With Chair"

1955 newspaper story "Ideal Weather Favours School Section Centennial" and related stories

100th Anniversary brochures

1965 newspaper story "Last Homecoming at No. 8 School in East Zorra Attended by About 200"

1965 newspaper story "Old SS No. 8 School Sold for \$2,600"

2003 newspaper story "Memories of My One-Room Schoolhouse" by Carolyn Wilker and poem "Empty Playground" by Carolyn Wilker

DVD

School Days - with teachers who taught in one-room schools ... Mary Alice Roth, Ruth Rosenberg and Kaye Bickle

See the next 11 pages for photos.



S.S. No. 8 - Circa 1895. Teacher - Henry Mansz



S.S. No. 8 - circa 1906
Teacher - Miss Marion Ross

Back Row: John Bell, Wilfred Winhold, Greg Russell, Ula Russell, Ella Ross, Annie Krug (10th Line), Miss Marion Ross (teacher), Verna Russell, Edith Winhold

2nd Row: George Schneider, Jack Caister, Jack Russell, Milton Wilker, Steve Russell, Norman Wilker, Martha Stock, Flora Krug, Florence Youngblut, Annie Krug (12th Line), Laura Sippel, Edward Winhold

3rd Row: Henry McMillan, Conrad Sippel, Harry Youngblut, Annie Dalglish, Edna Schneider, Lula Winhold, Flora Wilker, Lottie Wilker, Ella Krug, Clara Krug, Sidonia (Dona) Sippel, Rossie Schultz, Harry Krug

4th Row: Bill Youngblut, Walter Wilker, Beverley Caister, Harry Schultz, Fred Sippel, Walter Krug, Conrad Wittig, Helen Caister, Erna Winhold, Eva Russell

Front Row: Arthur Sippel, Edwin Schneider, Johnny (Jack) Sippel, Sam Hansuld, Roy Russell, Louise Sippel, Edith (Eda) Sippel, _____, Annie Russell, Jennie Krug



S.S. No. 8 - Interior 1914
Teacher - Annie Murray

The teacher, Annie Murray (standing at the back by the cloakrooms) and her students sitting at the typical double desks, pose inside the school heated by two stoves.

Boys on the left include Charlie Lemp, Fred Wilker, Fred Burnett, Wallace Caister, John Burnett, Henry Rosenberg, J. Adam Sippel, Carl Hohner, Ted Rosenberg, Harvey Schultz, Jack Youngblut, Harry Gingerich, John Wilker, Milton Sippel, Lewis Lemp, Bob Henry and Bill Hohner.

Girls in front of Miss Murray include Marguarite Caister, Alma Wittig, Frieda Sippel, Annie Sippel, Flony Henry, Dorothy Johnstone, Bessie Krug, Isabel Krug, Pearl Patterson, Mary Scott, Della Winhold, Annie Gischler, Irene Gischler with Lorna Wilker, Marion Youngblut and Hilda Henry in the front row.



S.S. No. 8 - 1938
Teacher - Stephen Knight

Front Row (sitting) left to right: Jim Innes, Walter Youngblut, Fred Youngblut

2nd Row: Wayne Bender, Clarence Sippel, Warren Bender, Glen Schwartzentruber, Leonard Youngblut, Heinz Riedel, Earl Schwartzentruber

3rd Row: Charles Bailey, Louisa Bender, Marilla Bender, Janet Innes, Kathleen Wittig, Della Bickle

Back Row: Harold Wilhelm, Harold Schwartzentruber, Mr. Stephen Knight (teacher), Audrey Innes, Kathryn Hansuld, Miriam Bender, Marcella Bender and LaVerne Bickle



S.S. No. 8 - early 1940s
Teacher - Norma (Smith) Loveys

Back Row (left to right): Norma (Smith) Loveys, Kathleen Wittig, Marilla Bender, Laverne Bickle, Kathryn Hansuld, Janet Innes, Edna Leasa, Pearl or Mildred Leasa

Middle Row: Della Bickle, Louisa Bender, Walter Yungblut, Wayne Bender, Heinz Riedel, Clarence Sippel, Earl Schwartzentruber

Front Row: Bill Innes, Jack Baker, Charlie Bailey, Ron Wilker, Merlin Bender, Jeanna Bailey, Betty Schwartzentruber



S.S. No. 8 - 1945

Teacher - Miss Ruth Kinzie (later Mrs. Wilfred Rosenberg)

Front Row - left to right: Lonny Zehr, Jim Wilker, Carl Wettlaufer, Gerald Bender, Harold Bender, Farrell Sippel, Bob Wettlaufer, Joyce Brenneman (Gascho), Marg Bickle (Ramseyer) and Sonya Schaefer (Dunlop)

Second Row: Marg Goring (Pletsch), Isabel Bender (Ruby), Merle Gerber (Brenneman), Audrey Bender (Wagler), Ida Zehr (Smythe), Ruth Bender (Arnel), Mary Wiffen (Nicklas), Bernice Bender (Carter), Dorothy Schultz (Ball), Ruth Wettlaufer (Albrecht), Jean Stein (Porter) and Arlene Wilhelm (Wettlaufer)

Back Row: Maurice Yungblut, Bill Innes, Ron Wilker, Ray Brunk, Harold Brunk, Rudy Schaul, Jack Baker, Howard Wittig, Ron Schmidt, Bob Innes, Marvin Winhold and Ken Brunk

Note: The girls' married names are in brackets.



S.S. No. 8
Teacher - Mrs. Ruth Rosenberg

Back Row (left to right): Mrs. Rosenberg, Margaret Goring, Ruth Wettlaufer, Isabel Bender, Merle Gerber, Dorothy Schultz, Audrey Bender, Bernice Bender, Harold Townsend, Ron Schmidt, Bob Innes, Ken Brunk, Marvin Winhold

Second Row: Farrell Sippel, Harold Bender, Jim McAllister, Bob Wettlaufer, Gerald Bender, Joyce Brenneman, Jean Stein, Mabel Stein, Margaret Bickle, Sonya Schaefer, Elizabeth Townsend, Pauline Atwell, Claudette Sippel, Arlene Wilhelm

Front Row: Sandra Wilhelm, Carol Brenneman, Robert Goring, Lonny Zehr, Ron Brenneman, John Schultz, Carl Zehr, Curtis Riedel, Bill Wettlaufer, Jim Wilker, Ken Wilhelm, Carl Wettlaufer

Note: Mrs. Rosenberg remembers that this picture was taken under a beautiful maple tree facing the back of the school.



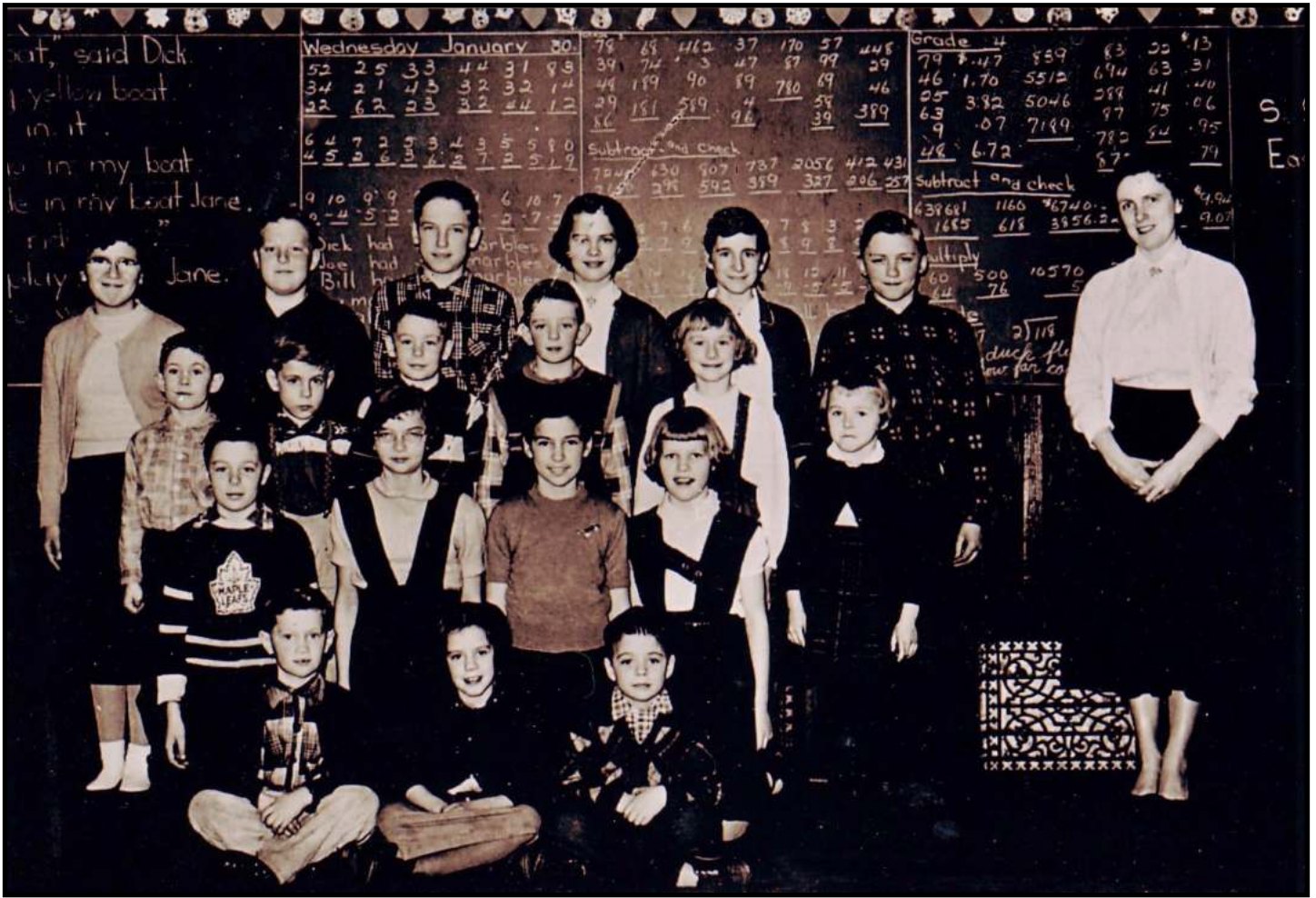
S.S. No. 8 - 1950-51
Teacher - Mrs. Ruth Rosenberg

Back Row (left to right): Sonya Schaefer, Elizabeth Townsend, Teacher - Mrs. Ruth Rosenberg, Jean Stein, Bob Wettlaufer, Farrell Sippel, Arlene Wilhelm, Isabel Bender, Margaret Goring, Marvin Winhold, Dorothy Schultz, Merle Gerber, Ruth Wettlaufer

Second Row: Glen Bickle, Bill Wettlaufer, Ron Brenneman, Sharon Wettlaufer, Carol Brenneman, Marg Bickle, Claudette Sippel, Joyce Brenneman, Mabel Stein, Sandra Wilhelm

First Row: Lonny Zehr, Jim Wilker, Carl Wettlaufer, Ken Wilhelm, Carl Zehr, Robert Goring, Curtis Riedel, Bobby Wilhelm, John Schultz

Entrance to the school for the boys was through the door on the left and for the girls on the door on the right. Cloakrooms and washrooms were in the basement, again separated by boys (left side) and girls (right side). Behind the middle window in the photo above was the kitchen and library.



S.S. No. 8 - 1958
Teacher - Kaye Wittig (Mrs. Frank Bickle)

Back Row (left to right): Sharon Wettlaufer, Robert Wilhelm, Carl Zehr, Sandra Wilhelm, Carol Brenneman, Glen Bickle

3rd Row: John Lichti, Tom Zehr, Ken Brenneman, Joanne Stein, Carolyn Wilhelm

2nd Row: Keith Brenneman, Shirley Schaefer, Janet Zehr, Linda Wilhelm

Front Row: Ron Bender, Margaret McKay, Roy Schmidt

Check the blackboard and test your arithmetic skills.



S.S. No. 8 is now a private home with two apartments.

Many elements of the original schoolhouse are still in place while others have been modified, like the front window, to provide functionality.

A unique new water feature immediately in front of the building incorporates slate from the school's blackboards and a statue of a little girl reading a favourite book.



The basement windows are unchanged in shape and ornamental brickwork from when the building was first constructed.

The tall windows from the schoolhouse days, needed to allow lots of sunlight into the classroom in the years before hydro, have been modified, again to add functionality in the current use as a private home.



S.S. No. 8 - first Gorings School and now a private home stands proudly on a busy corner.
Photos taken summer 2020.

