



Melvin School Pupils c 1907. Back L to R: George Hay, -----, Bill Hay, teacher, Nellie Crake, Laura Hay. Group of four girls are Pecks: Alice, Jennie, Mabel, with Bertha in front of them. The three other girls may be Kenways: Hilda, Rita, and Aileen or Molly. The two little boys: Arthur and Mark Keeping. The taller boy beside them: Russell Hay

the ceiling and a good fir floor. It had a huge stove that consumed large quantities of wood, and a teacher's desk (with bell and strap). The students had double desks so two sat together. According to records 29 students attended.

Teachers boarded at Hays, the home closest to the school, about half a mile away. Rita McCarthy was the teacher in 1915 and boarded at Hays. When Bruce

started to school, to his dismay he was no longer teacher's pet, but just a pupil the same as the others. Bruce decided that school wasn't to his liking, and the next day decided to stay at home, and made quite a fuss. His father's forceful persuasion changed his mind, and Bruce's education began. This was typical of the trauma experienced by many six year olds at that time. They had not been far from home, nor had any experience of playing with other children apart from their siblings.

There was a lake about 200 yards east of the school, so in winter the children were able to skate there. They also had a slide down the hill south of the school.

The trustees, Hay, Booth and Peck would occasionally visit the school, and when they appeared the pupils huddled together wondering which one of them had done something wrong. The trustees were very supportive of the teacher in charge, and were ready to help in anything she advised or to get anything needed.

The school inspector at that time was Mr. Dunlop who was very strict, and pupils had to be on their best behavior. All books were inspected, and work went on without interruption. The teachers were very nervous, and that would be sensed by the class, and they would be nervous also.



Trustees of the Melvin School. L to R: Alex McLennan, Robert & George Edgar