

John Herbert Hicks

Born to Bridgetown farmers in 1844, John Herbert Hicks is the first Tupperville School teacher whose name we know. Mr. Hicks taught at the school between 1877 and 1881, and had been working as a teacher in the Annapolis region since at least 1871. However, he did not remain in the profession for his entire life. According to the 1891 Census, Mr. Hicks became a cabinetmaker, and is listed as a customs officer in the 1901 Census. By the time of his death in 1925, he was the supervisor of a woodworking factory.

Over the course of his life, Mr. Hicks married twice. His first marriage was in 1875 to Sarah Collins Davis, a clergyman's daughter from Bridgetown. In 1899, he married for a second time to Henrietta Armstrong of Lawrencetown (originally New Brunswick). Through his son Henry Brandon Hicks, Mr. Hicks is the grandfather of Henry Davies Hicks, Nova Scotia's first Minister of Education. Henry D. Hicks would later become a premier, senator, and highly influential president of Dalhousie University, which he is credited as transforming from "a small 'college by the sea' to a national university." From a one-room schoolhouse to the province's largest university, the Hicks family has made a profound impact on the education of Nova Scotia's people.¹

¹ *Births, Marriages, and Deaths*, Nova Scotia Archives (<https://archives.novascotia.ca/vital-statistics/>) ; Census of Canada 1871, 1891, 1901 (<https://recherche-collection-search.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/Census/Index>) ; *Henry Hicks*, Dalhousie University, 2018 (<https://alumni.dal.ca/dalhousie-originals/henry-hicks/>) ; Tupperville School Records.