

Biographies of Tupperville Teachers

Introduction

During its time as an active school, over one hundred teachers passed through the halls of the Tupperville School. Most only taught for a single year, and some only for a few months. Of those whose names are known, 65% were women. Although many teachers were unmarried and under the age of 30, not all fit into this popular image of the young female schoolteacher. There were women continuing to teach after marriage, widows returning to a former job, and men of all ages with an interest in schooling. While some teachers remained in the profession for their entire lives, others went back to university and pursued new and exciting careers. Regardless of their differences, all made an impact on the lives of their students. Based on Census reports, obituaries, school registers, and birth, marriage and death records, the following biographies aim to give a voice to some of the hardworking teachers who contributed to education in Tupperville.

John Herbert Hicks (1877-1881)

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

Albert McCormick (1885)

Albert Edward McCormick taught at the Tupperville School during the year 1885, when he was around 21 years old. He was born around 1864 to a farming family in Granville Centre. Not much is known about his personal life or career, but he was still working as a teacher when he married Jessie Alesa Gilliatt in 1911.²

Haddon (1886-1887) and Minnie Balcom (1886)

Between 1886 and 1887, students in Tupperville were taught by two members of the Balcom family. Haddon and Minnie Balcom both came from Clarence, and appear to have been cousins of some sort. At the time they taught here, Haddon was around 24 to 25 and

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.

² *Marriage Record of Albert Edward McCormick and Jessie Alesa Gilliatt*, Nova Scotia Archives, 1911 (<https://archives.novascotia.ca/vital-statistics/marriage/?ID=134896>) ; Tupperville School Records.

Minnie was 22. From the school records, Haddon Balcom taught during the winter terms of 1886 and 1887, while Minnie Balcom taught during the summer term of 1886. Haddon's salary at the time was almost double that of Minnie, though it is unclear if the discrepancy was based on gender, qualifications, or both. It is possible that Minnie was filling in for her cousin during the months he was expected to work on the family farm.³

Phineas Whitman (1888)

Phineas Whitman taught at the Tupperville School for one year in 1888. He was around 52 at the time, much older than the usual imagining of youthful school teachers. Mr. Whitman was born in Annapolis County, and had been teaching in various places around the Valley since at least 1871. By the time of the 1901 Census, he seems to have retired from the profession to work as a farmer instead, although his son Elbert followed in his footsteps to become a teacher. Mr. Whitman died in 1928 at the age of 91.⁴

Bertha Morehouse (1890)

Born in Lakeside in the County of Digby, Bertha Eugene Morehouse was 23 when she taught at the Tupperville School. Both she and her younger sister Lottie worked as teachers during the 1890s, showing that a passion for education ran in the family. Miss Morehouse eventually married a clergyman named Jonathan Alfred Smith in 1897. After the wedding, she

³ Census of Canada 1881 (<https://recherche-collection-search.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/Census/Index>) ; Tupperville School Records.

⁴ Census of Canada 1871, 1881, 1901 (<https://recherche-collection-search.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/Census/Index>) ; *Death Record of Phineas Whitman*, NS Archives, 1928 (<https://archives.novascotia.ca/vital-statistics/death/?ID=223044>) ; Tupperville School Records.

appears to have stopped teaching and worked as a housewife instead. By 1911, she was living with her husband and children in Cumberland County.⁵

Reginald Boehner (1897)

At the age of 23, Reginald Stephen Boehner of Paradise spent a year teaching at the Tupperville School. Following his brief profession as a public school teacher, he studied organic chemistry at Dalhousie University and McGill University. Dr. Boehner then pursued a doctorate at the University of Berlin, finishing the degree at McGill. In 1912, he moved to the United States and researched the use of gas as a weapon at Johns Hopkins University during World War I. After the war, he began teaching chemistry at Syracuse University in New York, and eventually became the head of the department. Dr. Boehner married a fellow professor from the Syracuse fine arts department, Margaret, and passed away in 1945. According to a tribute published by the university, he was “nationally known for research and accomplishments in the field of organic chemistry.”⁶

Carrie Morse (1900)

⁵ Census of Canada 1891, 1911 (<https://recherche-collection-search.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/Census/Index>) ; *Marriage Record of Jonathan Alfred Smith and Bertha Eugene Morehouse*, NS Archives, 1897 (<https://archives.novascotia.ca/vital-statistics/marriage/?ID=95835>) ; Tupperville School Records.

⁶ *Birth Record of Reginald Stephen Boehner*, NS Archives, 1876 (<https://archives.novascotia.ca/vital-statistics/birth/?ID=162246>) ; Census of Canada, 1901 (<https://recherche-collection-search.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/Census/Index>) ; *Reginald S. Boehner Memorial Page*, Find A Grave, 2021 (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/232632462/reginald-s.-boehner>) ; “Obituary,” *Chemical and Engineering News*, 10 September 1945 (<https://doi.org/10.1021/cen-v023n017.p1554>) ; Tupperville School Records.

Born in Paradise, Carrie Morse was 19 when she taught in the Tupperville School. She was the youngest of six children, raised by her widowed mother after her father died before she reached the age of 13. Miss Morse later married the physician Dr. John Fancher Crawford of Saratoga Springs, New York, and moved to the United States with her new husband. The pair may have met through her older brother Lewis, who was also a physician. Another of her older brothers, Alfred, became a teacher.⁷

Ethel Eaton (1901-1905)

Working at the Tupperville School between 1901 and 1905, Ethel Maude Eaton was one of the school's longest lasting teachers. In the 1901 Census, she was a student living in a Truro boarding home, presumably attending Normal School and learning how to be a teacher. Tupperville was likely her first position, begun just a few months after she graduated at age 20. Miss Eaton was originally from Granville Ferry. Sadly, her life was cut short when she died at the age of 30 in 1912.⁸

Edna Durling (1909)

⁷ Census of Canada, 1891 (<https://recherche-collection-search.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/Census/Index>) ; *Marriage Record of John Fancher Crawford and Carrie Alida Morse*, NS Archives, 1905 (<https://archives.novascotia.ca/vital-statistics/marriage/?ID=116964>) ; "Obituary for John Fancher Crawford," *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, 29 April 1946 (<https://www.newspapers.com/article/the-brooklyn-daily-eagle-obituary-for-jo/39473516/>) ; Tupperville School Records.

⁸ Census of Canada, 1901 (<https://recherche-collection-search.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/Census/Index>) ; "Ethel Maud Eaton," *Geni.com* (<https://www.geni.com/people/Ethel-EATON/6000000200732562867>) Tupperville School Records.

By the age of 19, Edna Durling was already working as a teacher. She lived with her parents at Carleton Corner at the time. Miss Durling was around 27 when she spent a year teaching at the Tupperville School, but unfortunately nothing more is known about her life.⁹

Gladys Daniels (1912)

Although uncertain, the woman who taught at the Tupperville School is possibly Gladys King Daniels. Miss Daniels was born in Paradise and would have only been around 16 or 17 when teaching at the school. In 1914, she began an undergraduate degree at Acadia University and finished in 1918. Soon after, she married Frank Balcom and worked as a housewife until her death in 1962.¹⁰

Emma Simpson (1913)

The Emma Simpson who taught at the Tupperville School in 1913 is likely Emma Augusta Simpson, a woman from Round Hill. Miss Simpson never married, instead living with her older brother Henry and acting as a housekeeper for his family. Miss Simpson would have been around 62 when she taught at the Tupperville School. Based on her age and lack of teaching experience, it is likely that Miss Simpson was filling in for a year when the school

⁹ Census of Canada, 1901 (<https://recherche-collection-search.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/Census/Index>) ; Tupperville School Records.

¹⁰ *Acadia University. Freshman Class, 1914-1918.* Acadia University (<https://archives.acadiu.ca/node/929>) ; *Birth Record of Gladys King Daniels*, NS Archives, 1896 (<https://archives.novascotia.ca/images/vital-statistics/births/1896/1896-99100476c.jpg>) ; *Marriage Record of Frank Balcom and Gladys King Daniels*, NS Archives, 1918 (<https://archives.novascotia.ca/vital-statistics/marriage/?ID=159298>) ; *Death Record of Gladys King Balcom*, NS Archives, 1962 (<https://archives.novascotia.ca/vital-statistics/death/?ID=436679>) ; Tupperville School Records.

was struggling to find a teacher. The 1931 Census confirms that she was able to read and write, the two most important skills for the job.¹¹

Phoebe Agnes Gesner (1914)

Beginning at the age of 18, Phoebe Agnes Gesner went on to teach for another eighteen years. She remained single throughout her life, retiring from her profession at the age of 37 to work as a homemaker for her younger brother in Belleisle. Miss Gesner was 32 when she taught at the Tupperville School in 1914.¹²

Irene Balcom (1915)

Born in Upper Clements, Irene Clark Balcom taught at the Tupperville School when she was 29. By 1931, she was working as a housekeeper in a private household, but her death record notes that she was a teacher for thirteen years. Miss Balcom never married and died at age 78 in 1965.¹³

Emma Chipman (1916)

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- ¹¹ Census of Canada, 1901, 1911, 1931 (<https://recherche-collection-search.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/Census/Index>) ; *Death Record of Emma Augusta Simpson*, NS Archives, 1935 (<https://archives.novascotia.ca/vital-statistics/death/?ID=250341>) ; Tupperville School Records.
- ¹² Census of Canada, 1901, 1931 (<https://recherche-collection-search.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/Census/Index>) ; *Death Record of Phoebe Agnes Gesner*, NS Archives, 1967 (<https://archives.novascotia.ca/vital-statistics/death/?ID=471175>) ; Tupperville School Records.
- ¹³ Census of Canada, 1931 (<https://recherche-collection-search.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/Census/Index>) ; *Death Record of Irene Clark Balcom*, NS Archives, 1965 (<https://archives.novascotia.ca/vital-statistics/death/?ID=457237>) ; Tupperville School Records.

In 1916, the Tupperville School was taught by a woman who was likely one of its former students. Emma Whiston Chipman was born and raised in a farming family in Tupperville, teaching at the school in 1916 when she was 28. She married James Franklyn Berry of Granville Ferry the following year, but may have continued teaching until 1924. By 1931, she had retired to focus on housework.¹⁴

Florence Crawford (1918)

Florence Anna Crawford was in many ways unique for a teacher at the Tupperville School. Born in Prince Edward Island, she moved to Nova Scotia in 1881 when she was around 15. She began teaching in 1885 and continued in the profession for forty years, until she finally retired in 1925. Miss Crawford was around 51 when she taught at the Tupperville School, much older than the average instructor. She never married, instead remaining independent for her entire life.¹⁵

Laura Jane Buckler (1919)

Born in West Dalhousie, Laura Jane Buckler graduated from Normal College in 1917 with a Class C license. Just two years later, she taught at the Tupperville School at the age of 22. According to the 1921 Census, her older sister Kathleen also worked as a public school teacher. Miss Buckler is the first teacher whose school register is still held by the Museum.

¹⁴ Census of Canada, 1931 (<https://recherche-collection-search.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/Census/Index>) ; *Marriage Record of James Franklyn Berry and Emma Whiston Chipman*, NS Archives, 1917 (<https://archives.novascotia.ca/vital-statistics/marriage/?ID=155526>) ; *Death Record of Emma Whiston Berry*, NS Archives, 1964 (<https://archives.novascotia.ca/vital-statistics/death/?ID=449097>) ; Tupperville School Records.

¹⁵ Census of Canada, 1901 (<https://recherche-collection-search.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/Census/Index>) ; *Death Record of Florence Anna Crawford*, NS Archives, 1951 (<https://archives.novascotia.ca/vital-statistics/death/?ID=370367>) ; Tupperville School Records.

Even in the dry data of a register, her personality shines through. Unlike most later teachers, Miss Buckler filled her register with notes about the weather, dances, celebrations, and other events related to the end of World War I. She also taught through the arrival of the Spanish Flu, a severe illness that forced the school to close for a month.¹⁶

Flora Longmire (1920)

Flora Christine Longmire was the daughter of a Bent from Granville Centre. She was 30 years old when she taught at the Tupperville School, though she had been teaching since at least 1911. Like many young teachers, she was boarding with a local family at the time. In 1923, Miss Longmire married Guy Henry Barteaux, a mill owner from Moschelle, and retired from her profession as a teacher.¹⁷

Dorothy Mae Roach (1921)

Born to Canadian parents in the United States, Dorothy Mae Roach did not live in Canada until 1908 when she was around 9-years-old. She later graduated from Normal College in 1917 at the age of 18, obtaining a Class B license. Miss Roach was 23 when she taught at the Tupperville School. Some of her personality survives through the school register, where she notes the school needing to remain open despite heavy snow, or admits to having mistakenly filled out Thanksgiving on the wrong day. Miss Roach also organized a picnic for

¹⁶ Census of Canada, 1921 (<https://recherche-collection-search.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/Census/Index>) ; *Birth Record of Laura Jane Buckler*, NS Archives, 1897 (<https://archives.novascotia.ca/vital-statistics/birth/?ID=137582>) ; Tupperville School Records.

¹⁷ Census of Canada, 1911 (<https://recherche-collection-search.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/Census/Index>) ; *Death Record of Flora Christine Barteaux*, Nova Scotia Archives, 1967 (<https://archives.novascotia.ca/vital-statistics/death/?ID=472074>) ; *Marriage Record of Guy Henry Barteaux and Flora Christine Longmire*, NS Archives, 1923 (<https://archives.novascotia.ca/vital-statistics/marriage/?ID=179084>) ; Tupperville School Records.

her students on Arbour Day, a yearly May tradition that many students fondly remember. In 1922, she married Edwin Stewart Leonard and stopped working as a teacher.¹⁸

Luella Bishop Blackford (1922)

Luella Bishop Blackford was fresh out of school when she began teaching at the Tupperville School in 1922. As of 1921, she was still listed as a student in the Census, and she was only 19 when she began to teach. Miss Blackford married the American clergyman Chester Owen Sommer in 1932, and remained in her hometown of Tiverton, Digby County, for the rest of her life. She lived for almost 100 years until passing away in 2002.¹⁹

Elsie Chute Black (1923)

Elsie Chute Black of Villagedale is best remembered for a scandalous event that took place during her tenure as teacher. Apparently, Miss Black created a lot of gossip in 1923 when she rode bareback on the same horse as her fiancé. She was 29 at the time, and her husband-to-be was 38. Miss Black and her beau, Thomas Handley Chipman of Round Hill, married the next year. On another occasion, a student brought his pet crow to class. Even after forcing the bird outside, Miss Black had to listen to “Jim Caw” repeatedly crying out

¹⁸ Census of Canada, 1931 (<https://recherche-collection-search.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/Census/Index>) ; *Marriage Record of Edwin Stewart Leonard and Dorothy Mae Roach*, NS Archives, 1922 (<https://archives.novascotia.ca/vital-statistics/marriage/?ID=175411>) ; Tupperville School Records.

¹⁹ Census of Canada, 1921 (<https://recherche-collection-search.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/Census/Index>) ; *Luella Bishop Blackford Sommer Memorial Page*, Find a Grave, 2017 (https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/185223930/luella_bishop_sommer) ; *Marriage Record of Chester Owen Sommer and Luella Bishop Blackford*, NS Archives, 1932 (<https://archives.novascotia.ca/vital-statistics/marriage/?ID=209163>) ; Tupperville School Records.

“Hi Bill!” and pecking at the window-sill. After marriage, she gave up teaching to become a homemaker.²⁰

Annie Chestnut (1924-1925)

Unfortunately not much is known about Annie Chestnut, but a few memories from her students continue to live on. Often referred to affectionately as Miss Peanut, she caused in scandal while teaching at the Tupperville School after jumping into a convertible car without first opening the door. Apparently, community members questioned her fitness to teach children after such an immoral display.²¹

Alice Hockin (1926)

Alice Hildagarde Hockin of Weymouth was the daughter of a clergyman, and seemed to have spent much of her youth traveling to new places in Nova Scotia. She was 21 when she taught at the Tupperville School, and was succeeded in the position by her younger sister Margaret. The elder Miss Hockin never married, and lived until 1997. It is uncertain how long she worked as a teacher.²²

Margaret Hockin (1927-1928)

²⁰ Census of Canada, 1931 (<https://recherche-collection-search.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/Census/Index>) ; *Marriage Record of Thomas Handley Chipman and Elsie Chute Black*, NS Archives, 1924 (<https://archives.novascotia.ca/vital-statistics/marriage/?ID=182807>) ; Nancy Kopulos, *A History of the Tupperville School*, 2001. ; Tupperville School Records.

²¹ Nancy Kopulos, *A History of the Tupperville School*, 2001. ; Tupperville School Records.

²² *Alice Hildagarde Hockin Memorial Page*, Find a Grave, 2015 (https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/148200640/alice_hildagarde_hockin) ; *Birth Record of Alice Hildagarde Hockin*, NS Archives, 1905 (<https://archives.novascotia.ca/vital-statistics/birth/?ID=195593>) ; Tupperville School Records. ; Census of Canada, 1921 (<https://recherche-collection-search.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/Census/Index>)

Margaret Lillian Hockin lived a unique and exciting life. The younger sister of her predecessor at the Tupperville School, Miss Hockin was born in Bridgewater but spent most of her youth moving to different locations with her family. She was between 19 and 20 when she taught in Tupperville, and is best remembered for preparing healthy lunches for children whose families were struggling to make ends meet. After teaching in Tupperville, Miss Hockin returned to improving her own education around 1931, and in 1949 she obtained a graduate degree from Cornell University in New York. Her earlier passion for helping hungry children may have informed her future career, as in 1952 Miss Hockin went on to become Chief of the Home Economics Section of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Rome, and received an honorary law degree from Mount Allison University in 1954. She later married Dr. James Bishop Harrington of Saskatchewan, a fellow employee of the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization. She passed away in 1991, and is buried in Truro with her sisters Alice and Anne.²³

Anna Price (1929)

Unlike the majority of teachers at the Tupperville School, Anna Price was already married when she began teaching. Born Anna May Blanchard of Truro, she married Alfred

²³ Census of Canada, 1921, 1931 (<https://recherche-collection-search.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/Census/Index>) ; *Birth Record of Margaret Lillian Hockin*, NS Archives, 1908 (<https://archives.novascotia.ca/vital-statistics/birth/?ID=226174>) ; "Graduate Theses in Canadian History and Related Subjects," *The Canadian Historical Review*, Vol. 31, No. 3, 1950 (<https://muse.jhu.edu/pub/50/article/623813/pdf>) ; *Honorary Degrees*, Mount Allison University (<https://mta.ca/about/leadership-and-governance/university-honours/honorary-degrees>) ; *Margaret Lillian Hockin Harrington Memorial Page*, Find a Grave, 2015 (https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/148200507/margaret_lilian_harrington) ; "Marriage Announcement," *Asheville Citizen-Times*, 14 December 1957 (https://www.newspapers.com/image/200372027/?clipping_id=89903927&fcfToken=eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiIsInR5cCI6IkpXVCJ9.eyJmcmVILXZpZXctaWQiOjIwMDM3MjAyNywiawWF0ljoXNzlyNzA0NTM2LGlleHAIQjE3MjI3OTA5MzZ9.bNCcQvJ1j3p1qYU8LjlsTqOSKNIQ4s2DLhrZBalCb2E) ; Tupperville School Records.

Owen Price of Bridgetown in 1899. By the time she taught for a semester in Tupperville, Mrs. Owen Price (as she was referred to in school records) was 54 years old. Based on her death record and information in the 1931 Census, as well as the brevity of her stay at Tupperville, she does not seem to have been a career teacher and was likely only filling in during a year where the Trustees could not find a proper teacher. However, her son Howard was a teacher by 1931, and her second son Aubrey briefly taught at Tupperville later that year.²⁴

Aubrey Price (1929)

The son of the previous teacher, Aubrey Farnham Price of Bridgetown taught at the Tupperville School for a semester when he was 23. He had already graduated with a Bachelor of Science from Dalhousie University in 1926, and went on to obtain a doctorate from McGill University in 1932. Dr. Price worked for a number of chemical companies including Shawinigan Chemicals (Quebec), American Cyanamid (Connecticut), and Shawinigan Resins (Massachusetts). He was the head of research at the latter company until his retirement in 1968, after which he returned to Nova Scotia and lived with his wife, Elaine Henry, in Granville Ferry until his death in 1976.²⁵

Louise Chipman (1929)

²⁴ Census of Canada, 1931 (<https://recherche-collection-search.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/Census/Index>) ; *Death Record of Anna May Price*, Nova Scotia Archives, 1935 (<https://archives.novascotia.ca/vital-statistics/death/?ID=250150>) ; *Marriage Record of Alfred Owen Price and Anna May Blanchard*, NS Archives, 1899 (<https://archives.novascotia.ca/vital-statistics/marriage/?ID=100046>) ; Tupperville School Records.

²⁵ Census of Canada, 1931 (<https://recherche-collection-search.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/Census/Index>) ; *Birth Record of Aubrey Farnham Price*, Nova Scotia Archives, 1906 (<https://archives.novascotia.ca/vital-statistics/birth/?ID=201138>) ; "Dr. Aubrey Farnham Price," *Annapolis Spectator* 2 June 1976 (<https://annapolisgenealogy.ca/people/38068>) ; Tupperville School Records.

The Tupperville School was a chaotic place in 1929! After the first two semesters were handled by two different teachers, the final months of the school year were split between two substitutes. The first was Annie Louise Chipman, a former student of the school who can be found in grade 8 in the 1919 register. She was 23 when she briefly filled in at the Tupperville School, and does not appear to have been overly interested in the profession. According to her great-niece, Miss Chipman went on to become a nurse instead. She later moved to Richmond, Virginia, where she married the widower Frank Robertson in 1962.²⁶

Marion Comstock (1931)

Born in Berwick, Marion Louise Comstock was 19 and a recent graduate of the Normal College when she arrived to teach at the Tupperville School. Miss Comstock was quite popular with the young men in the community, who would compete to drive her to her boarding house on their bicycles during lunch hour. Apparently, some parents thought her too scandalous to be a proper teacher. Miss Comstock married a printer from Kentville in 1935, but the couple divorced sometime in the 1960s. She was still working as a school teacher at the time of her death in 1969.²⁷

Margaret Gavel (1932-1938)

²⁶ *Annie Louise Chipman Memorial Page*, Find a Grave, 2018 (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/188559506/annie-louise-robertson>) ; *Birth Record of Annie Louise Chipman*, NS Archives, 1906 (<https://archives.novascotia.ca/vital-statistics/birth/?ID=199755>) ; Discussion between Great-Niece of Annie Louise Chipman and the Museum, July 2024.; Tupperville School Records.

²⁷ *Birth Record of Marion Louise Comstock*, Nova Scotia Archives, 1911 (<https://archives.novascotia.ca/vital-statistics/birth/?ID=264927>) ; *Death Record of Marion Louise Hamilton-Catty*, Nova Scotia Archives, 1969 (<https://archives.novascotia.ca/vital-statistics/death/?ID=485009>) ; *Marrige Record of James C. Hamilton Catty and Marion Louise Comstock*, Nova Scotia Archives, 1935 (<https://archives.novascotia.ca/vital-statistics/marriage/?ID=219493>) ; Nancy Kopulos, *A History of the Tupperville School*, 2001. ; Tupperville School Records.

Of the many teachers who taught in Tuppersville, Margaret Alberta Gavel (née Frost) holds a special position as one of the most influential. Born in Yarmouth in 1888, Mrs. Gavel obtained a Class C license from Normal College in 1904. However, she gave up her teaching position almost immediately in order to marry Inglis Gavel in 1905. For the next 16 years, she worked as a housewife, though the couple had no children. After her husband's death in 1921, Mrs. Gavel finally returned to her earlier ambitions and became a school teacher once more. She arrived in Tuppersville during the fall of 1931, and remained its teacher until 1938.

According to former students, Mrs. Gavel tolerated no nonsense in her classroom, but was fair and passionate about her position. She explained all assignments thoroughly and ensured that every student understood, and filled in the gaps in education left by earlier instructors. When three female students were unable to afford high school in Bridgetown, Mrs. Gavel voluntarily chose to work extra hours so that the girls could finish their education at home. Additionally, she is well-known for the improvements she made around the school. With the help of the Women's Institute, Mrs. Gavel raised enough money to buy the school's first water cooler, build a playground, dig a well, purchase a book cabinet, and double the size of the school's library. On Arbour Day, she usually arranged special events that went above and beyond what was expected, such as organizing a picnic at Lake LaRose and inviting an Acadia professor to plant shrubs with the students. The school registers from the years she

taught are immaculately filled out and contain a wealth of detail unmatched by most other teachers.²⁸

Sara Almeda Specht (1938-1941)

Of all the teachers whose registers have survived, Sara Almeda Specht is the only who managed to receive a compliment from the stern school inspector. Miss Specht was born in Barton, and pursued a career as a teacher from a young age. When she first graduated from Normal College, she was not old enough to be awarded a Class B license and had to wait until she turned 19 in 1927 before her license could be upgraded. By the time she arrived in Tupperville, she was around 31 years old. Interestingly, Miss Specht married on August 20, 1940, but continued to teach at the Tupperville School for most of the following year. Although she moved away to live with her new husband, Henry Malcolm Shortliffe, she remained a teacher until her retirement in 1963. According to School Inspector M.C. Foster in 1939, "...the work as it is being done by Miss Specht is exceptionally good. She is deserving a substantial increase in salary." Considering his usual comments admonishing teachers and trustees to take better care of the school, the praise for Miss Specht was quite remarkable – though she unfortunately did not receive that raise.²⁹

²⁸ Census of Canada, 1931 (<https://recherche-collection-search.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/Census/Index>) ; *Birth Record of Margaret Alberta Frost*, Nova Scotia Archives, 1886 (<https://archives.novascotia.ca/vital-statistics/birth/?ID=223718>) ; *Death Record of Inglis Gavel*, Nova Scotia Archives, 1921 (<https://archives.novascotia.ca/vital-statistics/death/?ID=160778>) ; *Marriage Record of Inglis Gavel and Margaret Alberta Frost*, Nova Scotia Archives, 1905 (<https://archives.novascotia.ca/vital-statistics/marriage/?ID=119810>) ; Nancy Kopulos, *A History of the Tupperville School*, 2001. ; Tupperville School Records.

²⁹ *Birth Record of Sara Almeda Specht*, Nova Scotia Archives, 1908 (<https://archives.novascotia.ca/vital-statistics/birth/?ID=227966>) ; *Death Record of Sara A. Shortliffe*, Nova Scotia Archives, 1965 (<https://archives.novascotia.ca/vital-statistics/death/?ID=456796>) ; *Marriage Record of Henry Malcom Shortliffe and Sara Almeda Specht*, Nova Scotia Archives, 1940 (<https://archives.novascotia.ca/vital-statistics/marriage/?ID=243867>) ; Tupperville School Records.

Lillian Orde (1941)

In 1941, Lillian Orde worked as a substitute teacher for 24 days at the Tupperville School. Mrs. Orde was born Lillian Myrtle Frail in Westfield, and was a teacher at the time of her marriage in 1939. It is unclear if she continued in her profession after marrying or if she was simply filling in as a substitute while the trustees searched for a permanent employee. Mrs. Orde was only 26 during her stay in Tupperville.³⁰

Louise Bishop (1941)

Emmaretta Louise Bishop of Bridgetown was the second woman to act as a substitute teacher at the Tupperville School in 1941. Miss Bishop graduated from Normal College in 1936 with a Class A license, and specialized in teaching music. She taught at Tupperville for the final 37 days of the school year. In 1946, she married Laurence LeRoy Spurr of Round Hill, a civil engineer.³¹

Marjorie Kathleen Johnson (1942)

Born in Lower Granville, Marjorie Kathleen Johnson graduated from Normal College in 1937 with a Class A license. She was around 30 when she taught at the Tupperville School, and married Alfred Ernest Bent of Belleisle a few years later in 1945. The former Miss

³⁰ *Marriage Record of William Kenneth Orde and Lillian Myrtle Frail*, Nova Scotia Archives, 1939 (<https://archives.novascotia.ca/vital-statistics/marriage/?ID=236607>) ; Tupperville School Records.

³¹ *Marriage Record of Laurence LeRoy Spurr and Emmaretta Louise Bishop*, Nova Scotia Archives, 1946 (<https://archives.novascotia.ca/vital-statistics/marriage/?ID=281145>) ; Tupperville School Records.

Johnson was sadly widowed in 1985, though she continued to live until 2003. It is unclear whether she taught after marriage, but her younger sister Pauline would fill her position at the Tupperville School a few years later.³²

Dorothy Alice Cole (1943)

Dorothy Alice Cole of Toronto taught in the Tupperville School when she was 25. Graduating with a Class B license in 1940, she remained a teacher for 26 years until her retirement in 1965. Miss Cole never married, and sadly died when she was only 47 years old. A note tucked into her Tupperville School register provides a lists of songs to sing with the students, perhaps indicating an interest in musical education.³³

Pauline Johnson (1944)

Pauline Gertrude Johnson of Lower Granville followed in the footsteps of her older sister Marjorie, becoming a teacher and even spending a year at the Tupperville School. The younger Miss Johnson obtained a Class A license in 1943, and was 26 when she taught in Tupperville. According to her register, she once missed an entire week of school due to the mumps, a rare occurrence in a time when many teachers did not even take a single sick day. Miss Johnson seems to have been interested in new teaching methods; a page slipped into her register provides a lesson plan centred around students listening to a recording of a story

³² *Birth Record of Marjorie Kathleen Johnson*, NS Archives, 1912 (<https://archives.novascotia.ca/vital-statistics/birth/?ID=284297>) ; *Marriage Record of Alfred Ernest Bent and Marjorie Kathleen Johnson*, Nova Scotia Archives, 1945 (<https://archives.novascotia.ca/vital-statistics/marriage/?ID=276827>) ; *Marjorie Kathleen Johnson*, Annapolis Genealogy, 2023 (<https://annapolisgenealogy.ca/christopherbentgenealogy/g0/p726.htm#i21768>) ; Tupperville School Records.

³³ *Death Record of Dorothy Alice Cole*, NS Archives, 1966 (<https://archives.novascotia.ca/vital-statistics/death/?ID=462420>) ; Tupperville School Records

and a song. She and the trustees also received an admonishment from the school inspector M.C. Foster, stating that the desks and benches were not properly arranged to be a perfect 2 ½ inches apart. Miss Johnson married Alton Beatty Hayden of Port Wade two years after her stay in Tupperville, but continued to teach even after marriage. In total, the former Miss Johnson worked as a public school teacher for 34 years. Additionally, she was active in the Port Wade United Baptist Church, volunteering as treasurer for both the church board and the cemetery society.³⁴

Bessie Dalrymple (1945)

Bessie Elvira Dalrymple was born in Ontario, but had moved to Bridgetown by the time she was two months old. After graduating from Bridgetown High School and Normal College, she taught at the Tupperville School when she was 23. Miss Dalrymple went on to study at Acadia University and the University of Victoria. She never married, but was extremely active in the Annapolis Valley throughout her life. According to her obituary, Miss Dalrymple was a public school teacher, a Sunday School teacher, an Explorer leader, a Hi-C leader, a camp counselor, and president of the Annapolis County Music Festival. She was also passionate about helping those who were suffering, being involved with mental health initiatives, refugee committees, the United Church, Amnesty International, and blood donation. Even in death, Miss Dalrymple asked that donations to Amnesty International and the Angola Memorial Scholarship fund be made instead of flowers.³⁵

³⁴ *Pauline Gertrude Johnson Hayden Memorial Page*, Find a Grave, 2024 (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/265275085/pauline-gertrude-hayden>) ; *Birth Record of Pauline Gertrude Johnson*, NS Archives, 1918 (<https://archives.novascotia.ca/vital-statistics/birth/?ID=371421>) ; *Marriage Record of Alton Beatty Hayden and Pauline Gertrude Johnson*, NS Archives, 1946 (<https://archives.novascotia.ca/vital-statistics/marriage/?ID=284957>) ; Tupperville School Records.

³⁵ Census of Canada, 1921 (<https://recherche-collection-search.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/Census/Index>) ; *Bessie Elvira Dalrymple Memorial Page*, Find A Grave, 2009 (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/37364104/bessie-elvira-dalrymple>) ; Tupperville School Records.

Hazel Sanford (1945)

Hazel Viola Sanford was involved in many things during her life, but according to her obituary she will “most of all...be forever remembered as a much-loved school teacher....” Born Hazel Viola Potter in Clementsvale, Mrs. Sanford was one of three people to teach at the Tupperville School in the 1945-46 school year. She obtained a Class C license from Normal College in 1932. Unlike many teachers, the 31-year-old had already been married for 4 years at the time, though her husband was a soldier likely deployed during World War 2. In addition to teaching, Mrs. Sanford was known for her interest in artistic pursuits. She was president of the Garden Club, participated in the Annapolis County Music Festival, and enjoyed writing poetry.³⁶

Hollis Woodbury (1946)

A former student of the Tupperville School, Hollis Thornton Woodbury was one of three teachers to work in the 1945-46 school year. At the time of his 1944 marriage, Mr. Woodbury was an infantry instructor with the Canadian Active Service Force. He was likely deployed during the final years of the Second World War, teaching at the Tupperville School soon after his return. He received a permissive license in 1946, meaning that he had probably completed grade 11 but had not yet attended Normal College. A plaque dedicated in loving memory by his family can still be found in the Museum.³⁷

³⁶ *Marriage Record of Claude Wenton Sanford and Hazel Viola Sanford*, NS Archives, 1941 (<https://archives.novascotia.ca/vital-statistics/marriage/?ID=250632>) ; *Obituary of Hazel Sanford*, Kaulbach Family Funeral Home, 2010 (<https://kaulbachfamilyfuneralhome.com/tribute/details/434/Hazel-Sanford/obituary.html>) ; Tupperville School Records.

³⁷ *Marriage Record of Hollis Thornton Woodbury and June Evangeline Bent*, NS Archives, 1944 (<https://archives.novascotia.ca/vital-statistics/marriage/?ID=271838>) ; Tupperville School Records.

Paul Jodrey (1956)

At the Tupperville School, Paul George Henry Jodrey is best known as the younger brother of the school's longest-lasting and final teacher, Miss Maude Jodrey. Mr. Jodrey was a graduate of Normal College, and held a Level 3 Teaching License (formerly Class B). Unlike his sister, Mr. Jodrey's tenure in Tupperville was quite brief, lasting only the final 7 days of the 1955-56 school year when he substituted for his sister. Although his time here was short, Mr. Jodrey taught in many schools across the Annapolis Valley. In addition to teaching, he was also interested in antique cars and genealogy. He never married, and passed away in 2018.³⁸

Maude Louise Jodrey (1947-1949, 1951-1970)

Although many teachers passed through the Tupperville School, perhaps none made as big of an impression on the community as Miss Maude Jodrey. Both the longest lasting and the final teacher of the school, Miss Jodrey taught for over twenty years between 1946 and 1970. Even now, she is still remembered as a strict but fair teacher who rarely missed a day, and always made attending school a joy.

Born around 1915 in New London, Connecticut, Miss Jodrey grew up in Bridgetown and graduated from its high school in 1935. She later attended the Nova Scotia Normal College in 1940, where she studied to become a teacher and obtained a Class A license. This was the highest qualification available at the time, and one that was rarely achieved by women. Miss Jodrey taught in schools around rural Nova Scotia, including West Dalhousie,

³⁸ *Obituary of Paul Jodrey*, Kaulbach Family Funeral Home, 2018 (<https://kaulbachfamilyfuneralhome.com/tribute/details/823/Paul-Jodrey/obituary.html>) ; Tupperville School Records.

East Victory, Falkland Ridge, Auburn (Kings Co.), Newport Station (Hants Co.), Paradise, Tupperville and Annapolis Royal. Overall, she is believed to have taught for around forty years. In 1970, she fought to keep the Tupperville School open, arguing that a one-room schoolhouse developed morals and formed strong bonds between the students that multi-room schools lack.

Outside of teaching, Miss Jodrey pursued a number of other passions as well. According to family members, she loved gardening and raising animals, and even ran the highly regarded Juniper Kennels for years. Several of the dogs that she bred went on to win awards across North America. Many students also fondly recall her artistic talent, still speaking in awe years later of the time she drew a beautiful horse on the chalkboard to accompany her reading of *Black Beauty*. Throughout her life, Miss Jodrey remained an independent woman. She never married, happy in the knowledge that she could do anything a man could do.³⁹

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³⁹ References: Melanie Ballard and John N. Grant, intro to *Mary Kaulbach's Normal School Diary 1892-1893*, (Truro, NS: Little White Schoolhouse Press), 2021.; Discussion between Niece of Maude Jodrey and the Museum, July 2024.; Everett Fredericks, *Once Upon a Time in Tupperville*, n.d.; Nancy Kopulos, "A History of the Tupperville School," 2001.; Tupperville School Registers, 1946-1970.; "Maude Louise Jodrey Obituary," *Find a Grave*. July 2, 2017, https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/180943346/maude_louise_jodrey; Bernard Young, "Canadian Collies Coast to Coast," *Kennel & Bench*, January 1953, https://www.ckc.ca/magazines/1953/1953_01_Kennel_And_Bench.pdf

Museum Interpreter

Tupperville School Museum

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