

36 on my first day of going to school. I presume that there would be my sister Annie, & brothers George and John and Joseph. It was a question of us walking, and as I would be five years old at the time, two and a half miles, was a long walk, the only pony to ride was Shanks. There was no public school building in the district at that time, and the school was held in what at that time was called the Scotch Church. The first public school teaching was begun in 1864. The Church must have been built only some little time previous to that. I could not have attended there very long, for early in the following year, a school building was erected and opened for teaching ⁱⁿ 1869. I cannot be certain of the name of my first teacher, but I think it was a Mr. Smith. The discipline in the school could not have been very good, for I can recall, some of the children running outside, and getting some lollies from the pedlar that used to go about with his goods. I can well remember giving the teacher a punch on

37 the shins, and he pulled up his trousers & let down his sock, and sure enough I had drawn blood. Well it was no wonder for at that time all the boys' boots had a copper ^{toe plate} ~~band~~ in the front called a "corker". I cannot say how many children would be attending at this time, but the number must have been increasing rapidly which necessitated a proper building. The families were much larger in those times. The first teacher in the new school, was a Mr. Elman. A splendid teacher, & a man whose influence for good is reflected in the district even until the present time. Under his tuition I made great progress, and when he left after being in charge for eighteen months or so, I had at that time a very retentive memory and knew my multiplication tables up to 20 times, yes actually every one I could also do big addition sums, even to four & five figures across, and six lines or so deep. Later under another teacher of little ability I lost ground very much. This same Mr. Elman