

Concord Township Bicentennial Vignette Series 1

Elga Pomeroy - Concord Legacy

As Concord Township prepares to celebrate its bicentennial year on March 8, 2022, many notable events can lay claim to the fabric of this historic tapestry. However, one figure stands above all other moments in time, it is the beloved resident Elga (Radcliffe) Pomeroy. Her life and her 105-year journey is the story of this Lake County township. Records and census data put Elga Radcliffe's birthdate as March 3, 1890. Elga came to her Concord-Hambden Road farm with her family in 1902. Stone School photos verify her seventh and eighth grade years at the Auburn Road one-room schoolhouse. Documents also confirm her horse and buggy treks to Painesville High School and her graduation in the following years.

Elga's first official teaching position was at the Nursery School of the old Storrs-Harrison nursery which in time became Hale Road School. She also served as a substitute teacher on the site of the former Harvey High School. Elga reported in a Painesville Telegraph article dated June 4, 1968, of her teaching 25 pupils in grades 1-8 at the Stone School in Concord in 1909.



School records were not complete prior to 1915 and even post 1915 school records in the Lake County Atlas had incomplete yearly entries in educational record keeping documents. The 1921 Bing Law required all children in Ohio to attend school until age 18, thus beginning mandatory high schools. This led to the formal end of Concord's nine one-room schoolhouses. Concord consolidated the schools into one centralized school system beginning in 1921. A seven-year project by the Lake County Genealogical Society uncovered the first consolidated school system roster of Elga Pomeroy dated September 12,

1921. Elga replaced the previous teacher Jane A. Cowen. Her supervisor that year was a well-known community member J.R. Williams. She moved over to the new consolidated school located across from Town Hall in 1923. Renamed Concord

Elementary, it remained an active and vibrant township school thru 1982, having joined the Painesville Riverside School District in 1944. Her husband, Lloyd L. Pomeroy, bought the former Stone School in 1923 and converted it into their family residence. Lloyd was the first clerk of the new formalized school district, a position he held for the next 21 years.



A 1940 Census is shown to document the Pomeroy family legacy. The school property was adjacent to the Pomeroy farm that spanned 53 years of Concord history on Wilson's Corners. Despite the family home burning to the ground in 1923, the family maintained a new residence and farm for decades to follow. At one time in history, the Pomeroy's had 100,000 rose bushes on site to sell to locals. In 1968, the number still surpassed 10,000 for annual sales, mostly managed by Lloyd and their older son Art.

Lloyd passed in 1975 and was buried in Painesville's Evergreen Cemetery. At the time of his death, Elga and Lloyd had been married for more than 60 years. Elga returned to the Stone School residence and lived a quiet life in the private residence until her death in 1987 at age 105, having spanned a life well lived as the Stone School's student, teacher and resident. She was Concord's Citizen of the Year in 1982. In 2001, the Moore family returned the school property to township control when they sold it to the township trustees. The trustees included Connie Luhta, another township legacy.

However, it was another *Telegraph* article dated January 20, 1974, that cemented Elga's true legacy. In the Jessie Hayduk article, Elga shared hidden gems in local lore. She waxed nostalgically on the Ravenna Road quarry that supplied the stones for the 1840 school and the local railroad trestles on Fay Road, the current Greenway Corridor, as well as the nearby Kirtland Temple. She

spoke of desks with ink wells in them. She mentioned a potbellied oil stove, girls making hot school lunches and boys getting water for the school from the nearby Murray Farm. She recalled fondly the



Stone School class, 1910.

new tradition of ringing the school bell each day. She shared tales of epidemics of measles, mumps, whooping cough, scarlet fever and diphtheria that frequented school life. She recalled the student's excitement when the first airplanes passed overhead. She even recalled her many former students including a favorite, the postmistress in Rock River, Wyoming.



Elga's true gift to Concord was the permanence and stability she exuded. The township changed many times in the 20th century but the one constant across the many generations was the community teacher and grand lady Elga Pomeroy. Her story, some personal artifacts and her school- residence remain for all to view. Scheduled programming and private tours by appointment are offered. Call 440-639-4650 for more information.

Source - *Painesville Telegraph*, January 20, 1974 and June 4, 1968. Concord Township archives and *Concord Township History Book* 2021, lcssohio.org

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Concord School #1 (aka Wilson's Corners School, Old Stone School)

First Day as Teacher Gr. 1-6

Elga Pomeroy

Grade One

Rachel Leuty (6)
Helen Hlodick (6)
Francis Ely (6)
Helen Bozo (7)
Irene Sabolik (6)
Teddy Powlowski (7)
Clyde Hessman (8)
Harold Adams (6)

Grade Four

William Shroeder (9)
Chester Powlowski (9)
Nelson Woodford (10)
Irene Brainerd (10)
Elbert Leuty (9)

Grade Two

Hilda Somppii (6)
Aune Somppii (7)
Alex Bozo (9)
Carl Brainerd (7)

Grade Five

Russel Myres / Russell Myers (13)
William Woodford (13)

Grade Three

Irene Donner (8)
Bertha Curtiss (8)
Dorothy Brainerd (8)
John Sabolik (8)
Richard Owen (9)

Grade Six

Stanley Powlowski (11)
William Leuty (12)
Myron Woodford (15)
Howard Lohisher (11)

Source: lcssohio.org

Lake County Genealogical Society
Painesville, Ohio