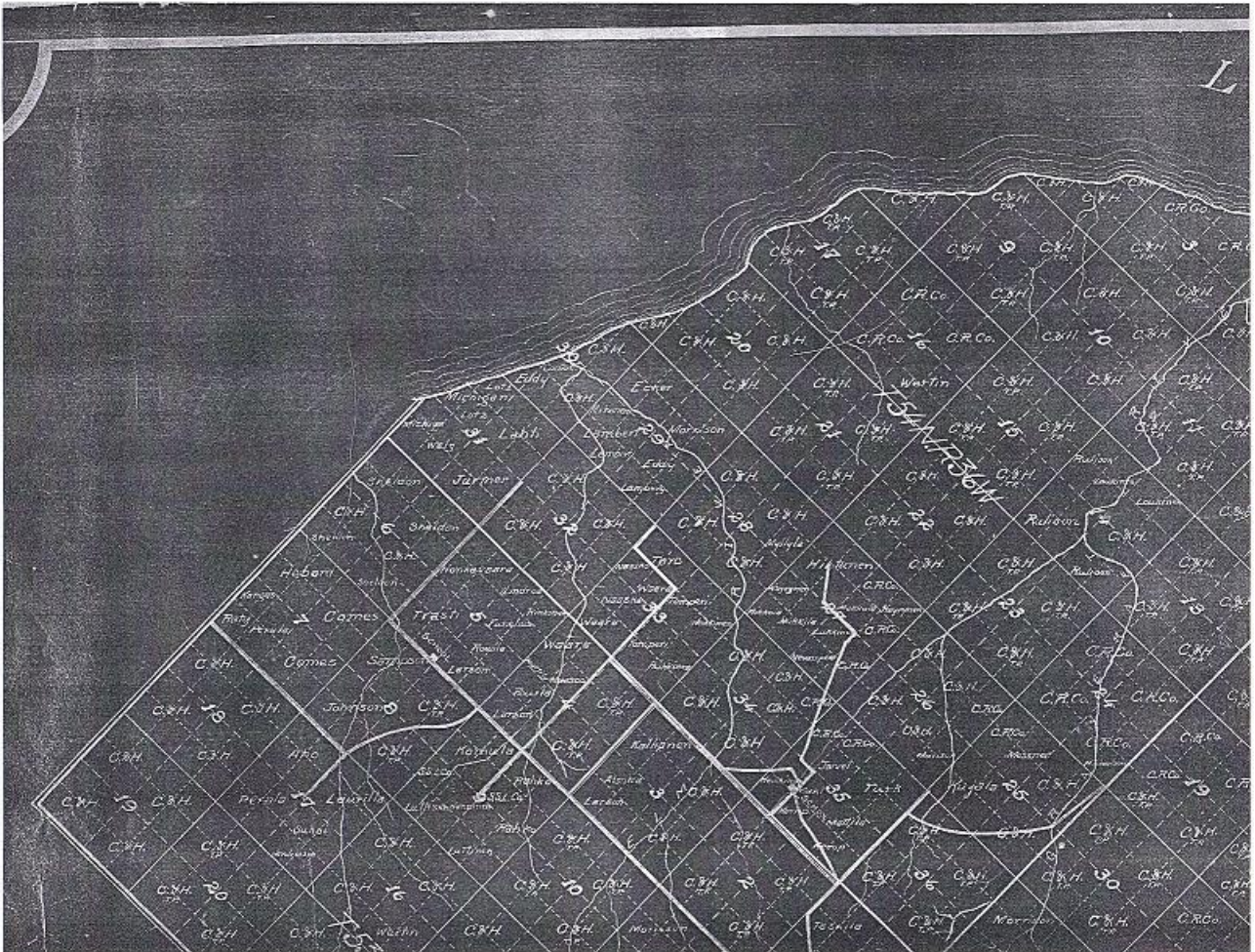


**Sampson School.** Other sources say Trasti Farm School.

T53n. R36w Section 8. NW ¼ of NW1/4. On the Gust Sampson property.

**Barb Koski would like a photo of these schools. Contact Webmaster.**

Sampson/Trasti property is across the road and south from the white school marking on 1923 Plat map lower left corner section 5



Majority of information was taken from the Toivola Reunion booklet.

- Built about 1902 (another source said 1903) (another source says 1904-1905) of logs. Community had a “bee” to raise the building.

- Esther Heltunen Peterson grew up in Edgemere. EB Holman asked her to teach at Trasti School. A descendant thinks it was about 1916 for at least a year.

- Destroyed by fire in 1917. School then held in John Perala living room until new school was built.

- Teachers: Amanda Jordon (maybe who taught at Edgemere?), Susan Manderfield (at least in 1916 picture), Mr. Lenz.

A picture at the Houghton Co. Historical Museum has these names: circa 1916. On left side: Ellen and Edna Trasti, Tynne Johnson, Martha Kommes, Edward Kommes, Walfred Honkavaara, Aale/Dale? Johnson, Ingrid Laurila, Mayme Kommes, Lempi Naasko, Siama Honkavaara

On right side: Wm. Naasko, Eslie Lampi, Arvid Kommes, Sam Lahti, Charles Naasko, Ralph Johnson, Ingrid Suksi, Jalmer Johnson, Hannah Lahti, William Suksi.

**Perala Farm School. T53 R36w Section 5. SE1/4 corner of Sw ¼. Near Larson.**

The Perala School was on the Agate Beach Road, about 1/4 mile before today's Leo Mattila's home.

- The Perala School was a one room school. Built in 1917. Closed in 1943. Abandoned. Torn down for salvage in 1950. School well remains.

- Teachers in the Trasti and Perala School were: Bessy Williams, Emma St. Germain, Helen Sorson, Mr. Lenz, Helmi Huru (later Heltenen) 1913-1914, Susan Manderfield, Esther Hiltunen and Mayme Eilertson in 1917; Mrs. H. Link, Mr. Thielman, Indgrid Suksi (1923-1925; 1927-1928), John Wisti, Lillian Huuki, Agnes Haischer, E. Litti, Helen Erickson (Hurley), Lillian Jarvi, Vieno Niemi (Takala) (1931-1932), Albert Tolonen, Mrs. Laitinen, Sylvia Hiltunen Mrs. Milinaz, and Ernest Wisti (1939-1940).

Lou Ann Wisti -Penny said that her dad Ernest Wisti started teaching at the Perala School then went to Heikkinen. The addition to the EB Holman School was named in his honor.

Linda (Honkavaara) Rauvala wrote in a journal: was educated at Sampson, Trasti and Perala Schools during the first and second decades of the 1900's. Following is her recollection of those school days and the fun she had with her classmates. As was her custom she opened with humor... Linda recalled a quarrel between two male classmates. One said "Now you're gonna get a goose egg on your forehead" and the other replied "Hit me twice then, so the yolk will drip into my mouth".

Our drinking water used at the school was from the river and we dipped it up with a pail. It was kept on a bench in the school. A dipper was in the pail always, and the children waited their turn in line to dip some up. We all used the same dipper.

Some mornings the door was still locked when we got to school. The teacher had the key. The big boys would chop the kindling and build the fire. We would run around the room until it was warm enough to take our coats off. Many of us went to school on ski with our lunch pail which was usually a half gallon syrup pail or a "leaf" brand lard pail. Some of us had syrup on our sandwiches, other had butter. Sometimes we traded lunches.

School was from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with 4 recesses. The first thing we did in the morning was sing. I recall one year, when we were at the John Perala home for school during World War 1, a girl named Saima did not know the words to the song, "Flow Gently Sweet Afton" and she couldn't sing the song. The teacher punished her by making her to stand up all day at the back of the room. In the evening, when the child was allowed to leave she was so dizzy that she saw 2 door knobs. The boys were never punished that way. The teacher wouldn't dare.

Linda recalls a school picnic in 1915. We had a case of pop. Each child could buy a bottle for 5 cents. There was no bottle opener, so someone pounded a nail in to a tree. It was so hard to use that nail. By the time the lid was pried off the pop would be all foamy and shoot out most of

its contents.

Martha (Kommes) Niva also attended the Perala and Sampson Schools. “ I started school at age six. Mr. Manderfield was the teacher. We did not have electricity in 1915. We did all our homework by lantern light. The first school was built on the Sampson property in the woods, but after it burned down we had school at John Perala’s home. That was only a half mile from our home; and a quarter mile from the Kommes and Niva homesteads.

Teachers at the Sampson School from 1904-1905 were Amanda Jordon, Susan Manderfield and Mr. Lenz.

**School Board minutes:**

July 1940. - School repairs @ Heikkinen and Perala (asphalt and boiled linseed oil for floors).

- Engels to check w/ Holman re: taking Perala students to Heikkinen and dispense w/ 1 teacher there.

August 1940. - J Heikkinen and Holman to report on transportation of 18 Perala students to Heikkinen eliminating 1 teacher at Perala.

Closed August 1942 - As no teachers now seem available for Onnela or Perala School it now appears that these students will be schooled at Redridge and Heikkinen.

September 3. 1942

- cut “juice” @ Onnela School. Close and board.

- cut “juice” @Canal and not board up if Alex Olson is responsible for its well being.

- close Perala School and board up.

July 1950 - Raphael Maki desires to purchase Perala School Property. Board looking onto procedure to do so. (Later he obtains lowest bid and he buys for \$200).

Researched by Barb Koski Osma Plat Road Houghton MI 49931 in 2009.  
Submitted 20011. Contact Webmaster with other information.